QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 175th Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



World Environment Day 2026 – Photo Credit: UNEP

TWENTY-NINTH ISSUE

April – June 2026

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with an update on key global and regional developments during the second quarter of 2026, in implementation of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (2026-2029) and Programme of Work for 2026-2027, both of which are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also sets out the linkages between programmatic delivery and progress on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).

The report covers the period of 1 April to 30 June 2026 and is organized into three sections:

- Section One highlights key global and regional developments (major inter-governmental meetings, other policy/political updates) in relation to the three strategic objectives: climate stability by reducing emissions and enhancing adaptation and resilience; living in harmony with Nature: land, ocean and freshwater; and achieving land degradation neutrality, with actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, to address desertification, land degradation and drought, and to conserve and restore terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems and a pollution-free planet.

- Section Two provides an overview of progress on the implementation of the PoW 2026-2027 in accordance with the strategic objectives and the three thematic subprogrammes (Climate action, Nature action: land, ocean and freshwater, Chemicals and pollution action), the two foundational subprogrammes (Science-policy, Environmental law and governance), the two enabling subprogrammes (Digital transformations, Finance and economic transformations), cross-cutting issues (Gender, Environmental and Social Safeguards, Repositioning of the UN Development system, South-South Cooperation) and pertinent challenges, opportunities, lessons learned and actions taken.

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

ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
HHPs	Highly Hazardous Pesticides
IMEO	International Methane Emissions Observatory
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MARS	Methane Alert and Response System
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
N4H	Nature4Health
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PoW	Programme of Work
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SOFF	Systematic Observations Financing Facility
SRM	Solar Radiation Modification
TNFD	Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP FI	UNEP Finance Initiative
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WDOECM	World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures
WESR	World Environment Situation Room

1 Significant Developments

A. Global Developments

World Environment Day 2026: Mobilizing Global Climate Action

UNEP led World Environment Day 2026 as a global call to action on the growing impacts of extreme heat, devastating floods and other climate-related disasters and to avoid the worst effects of climate change and build a fairer, more sustainable future. As UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen noted, "The planet is sending us signals – heatwaves, droughts, floods – harming us all, especially the most vulnerable. We must act on climate change as though our lives depend on it. Because they do."

UNEP amplified the call for action through messages from global leaders and partners. In a video message released for World Environment Day (5 June), United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on countries to move away from fossil fuels, protect natural ecosystems and support communities already facing climate impacts. He stressed: "This is the moment to act – for our environment and for our future." In Azerbaijan, the host country for World Environment Day 2026, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Rashad Ismayilov, urged countries to accelerate efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C within reach. Azerbaijani President, Ilham Aliyev, also highlighted the need for stronger international cooperation to address the climate crisis.

UNEP convened a briefing at United Nations Headquarters in New York for Member States, United Nations entities, youth representatives and other observers. The event featured remarks by H.E. Mr. Tofig Musayev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, and Ayisha Siddiqa, the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Climate Adviser. More than 30 Member States also took the floor, sharing commitments to strengthen environmental policy action.

Ahead of World Environment Day, UNEP:

- launched the 50@50 activation, mobilizing more than 50 cities, from Melbourne to Lagos, to strengthen resilience to extreme heat by sharing practical solutions, conduct stress tests against critical infrastructure and advance sustainable cooling;
- published Cheaper. Cleaner. Unstoppable, a policy brief, demonstrating how positive tipping points are accelerating the adoption of clean technologies across energy, transport, buildings and food systems.

UNEP-led Global Limbo Challenge invited people to perform the limbo dance to Deep Down by Brazilian musician and UNEP Goodwill Ambassador Alok. The challenge generated strong participation across digital platforms. UNEP staged a flashmob performance on Broadway in Manhattan, New York, USA.

UNEP further expanded the campaign's visibility through displays on the LG screen in Times Square and NY Link screens across all five boroughs, and digital kiosks at United Nations Headquarters. Globally, UNEP videos on YouTube, Instagram and TikTok recorded more than 17.4 million views, while the "Dance for Our Planet" video alone received more than 3 million views.

On 5 June itself, the two main hashtags, #WorldEnvironmentDay and #NowforClimate, ranked as the top two trending hashtags on X. UNEP-produced content generated 239 million social

media impressions and 2.7 million engagements, including likes, shares and comments. More than 55,000 news articles mentioning WED were published across 176 countries in 52 languages.

Rights-based Approaches Gain Momentum

At the 62nd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva (19–22 June) during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change, UNEP highlighted support to countries in translating obligations emerging from international climate-related advisory opinions into national legislation, reinforcing environmental rule of law and legal implementation. UNEP also contributed to the side event "The Sumaúma Pledging Tree for Human Rights-Based Climate Action", showcasing practical support for climate legislation, judicial capacity-building, and digital legal tools that help countries give effect to climate-related human rights obligations. These engagements reinforced UNEP's role in advancing rights-based climate action and strengthening environmental governance at the national level.

Preparing for COP 17: Partnerships with Small Island Developing States and Briefing Permanent Missions on Action for Nature

UNEP contributed to a roundtable discussion on "Resilience, Biodiversity and Partnerships: SIDS on the Road to COP 17," convened by the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations to mark the first International Day of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (27 April).The discussion highlighted the dual role of SIDS as custodians of globally significant marine biodiversity and as countries facing disproportionate environmental, economic and climate-related challenges. UNEP emphasized the persistent imbalance in global financial flows, noting that investment in nature-negative activities continues to far exceed funding for nature-based solutions. UNEP underscored the need to scale up accessible, predictable and adequate financing to support biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and resilience-building efforts in SIDS.

UNEP, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Permanent Mission of Armenia held a briefing for Permanent Missions in New York on "Taking Action for Nature: A Briefing on the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 17)" (11 May). The briefing helped raise awareness among Permanent Missions about the upcoming conference and its expected outcomes, supporting preparations for discussions and decision-making on global biodiversity priorities.

Advancing the Implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals

The Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat trained 29 newly nominated government focal points through virtual sessions and an in-person workshop to strengthen coordination of national implementation in Geneva (18-30 April). The Secretariat also launched the GFC Fund's first regional projects in West and East Africa, targeting highly hazardous pesticides and agroecology.

Progress on accountability was strengthened with draft indicators recommended by eighth meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Group on Measurability and Indicators (OEHGMI-8) for consideration at the first International Conference, supported by webinars and newsletter updates. In parallel, the ninth funding round of the Special Programme opened (15 May), building on 91 approved institutional-strengthening projects across 75 countries.

35th Meeting of the International Resource Panel and increased UNEP support

The 35th Meeting of the International Resource Panel (IRP) (8-12 June) took place in Berlin, hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Climate Protection and Nuclear Safety. Federal Minister, Carsten Schneider, opened the meeting, emphasizing the importance of the IRP to advance sustainable resource use. The meeting gathered 103 participants and was the first since the adoption of the new IRP 2026-2029 Work Programme, which seeks to deliver on priorities in alignment with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS). Participants discussed strategic matters and progress on IRP scientific workstreams.

Member States welcomed an update by the Director of UNEP's Industry and Economy Division on the increased support by UNEP to the IRP, including leveraging networks and UNEP experts for strategic impact, enhancing the access of users to IRP data and analytics by strengthening the connection with UNEP's digital databases, generating increased users' awareness and access to the broad set of IRP knowledge products, and mobilizing core resources towards the IRP. Discussions also covered key upcoming IRP work including critical transition minerals, circular economy in consumer electronics as well as in bioeconomy, science-based targets on raw materials use, decarbonizing cities, an environmental impacts database and the forthcoming Global Resources Outlook 2028.

Over 1,700 Join UNEP FI Global Roundtable

The 19th edition of the UNEP Finance Initiative's Global Roundtable (GRT) (23-25 June) took place in London during London Climate Action Week (LCAW). The GRT brought together 1,700+ participants (in-person and online) from finance, policy, science and sustainability to explore this year's theme, "From Risk to Resilience: Financing the Future".

UNEP FI convened 80 speakers from the financial sector and beyond, offering a platform to share insights, forge partnerships, and mobilise finance to deliver UNEP's priorities. Participation extended beyond the financial community to policy, science and sustainability institutions. A clear message emerged over the three days: the focus must now shift from ambition to implementation, supported by leadership and innovation.

UNEP Strengthens Environmental Accountability and Coordination Across the UN System

UNEP advanced system-wide environmental action through new tools and collaborative processes that improve reporting, coordination, and policy coherence across the United Nations. In partnership with the UN Department of Operational Support (DOS), UNEP launched a new "Landlord" reporting module within the Greening the Blue Data Platform in April, enabling lead agencies in shared premises to report environmental performance data on behalf of hosted entities. The tool is expected to reduce reporting burdens while improving data quality and coverage across the UN system.

To strengthen strategic planning, the Environment Management Group (EMG) completed a new analytical dashboard with more than 68,000 activities reported by UN entities since 2015, helping identify gaps, synergies, and opportunities for collaboration. In parallel, participating UN entities agreed to advance the development of a Common Approach for implementing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. A shared workplan, stakeholder consultations, and a review of existing UN programming established the foundation for a more coordinated UN-wide approach, with completion of the framework planned for 2027.

Stakeholder, Indigenous Peoples and Youth Engagement

UNEP strengthened collaboration among Member States, Indigenous Peoples, youth and other stakeholders, enhanced stakeholder capacity to contribute to environmental decision-making, and reinforced UNEP's role as a convener of inclusive multilateral dialogue. Through the eleventh Group of Friends meeting (15 June), UNEP facilitated dialogue between Member States and stakeholders on the implementation of outcomes from the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) and broader environmental governance priorities.

UNEP also advanced the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in environmental governance through its engagement at the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (20 April–1 May). UNEP emphasized that the knowledge, stewardship and leadership of Indigenous Peoples are critical to addressing the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Youth engagement remained a key priority. At the 2026 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum (14–16 April), held under the theme "Youth at the Forefront: Leveraging Science and Social Inclusion for Sustainable Development," UNEP reaffirmed its commitment to advancing UNEA resolution 7/6 on youth participation. UNEP, together with UN-Habitat, led the session on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 and co-organized the session on SDG 9, while representatives of the Children and Youth Major Group contributed youth perspectives on sustainable development challenges. UNEP also highlighted initiatives such as the Youth Environment Assembly and continued efforts to institutionalize youth participation across its programmes.

UNEP continued to strengthen inclusive participation in its governance processes by accrediting new organizations and supporting their effective engagement. During the reporting period, UNEP accredited 21 organizations[1], bringing the total to 1,372 (as of 30 June 2026). UNEP also delivered an induction webinar (28 May) to guide newly accredited organizations on governance processes, accreditation modalities, and participation in UNEA and UNEP activities.

Regional Distribution Comparison

Region	Newly Accredited (21)	All Accredited (1,372)
African States	29.5%	25.2%
Asia-Pacific States	33.0%	20.4%

[1] Leadership Environment and Action for Development Foundation (LEAD), Clean Production Action (CPA), Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation (PFRI), Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), Education for All Coalition, Alana Institute, Sauti ya Mtoto Foundation, Centre for Environment & Development, Korea Green Foundation, Fairventures Worldwide (FVW), Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network, Youth International Leadership Institute (YIL-Network), Inc, Green Future Foundation, Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES NGO), National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response, The Light Millennium, Charitable Global Human Advancement Organization, Humanculture, The Global Pro Bono Bar Association, Dharma Alliance, Green Canopy Enviro-care, Centre for Media Studies.

Eastern European States	0.0%	1.6%
Latin American and Caribbean States	4.5%	4.3%
Western European and Other States	33.0%	48.5%

Major Groups Distribution

Major Group	**Newly Accredited (21)**	**All Accredited (1,372)**
NGO	76.0%	74.0%
Business and Industry	0.0%	6.5%
Scientific and Technological Communities	0.0%	7.4%
Women	0.0%	2.6%
Children and Youth	19.0%	5.4%
Workers and Trade Unions	0.0%	0.4%
Local Authorities	0.0%	0.8%
Farmers	0.0%	1.0%
Indigenous Peoples and their Communities	5.0%	1.9%

Promoting Transparency, Access to Information and Global Reporting

UNEP advanced transparency, access to information and institutional visibility through its contributions to key intergovernmental reporting and knowledge-sharing processes. UNEP submitted inputs to the thirtieth meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention, highlighting progress in promoting access to environmental information, public participation and stakeholder engagement (24-26 June). UNEP also contributed to the Secretary-General's report on youth policies and programmes for the sixty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development, showcasing its work to strengthen youth participation in environmental governance.
Through these submissions UNEP shared its experience and good practice across multilateral environmental and sustainable development processes, while strengthening coherence between global reporting frameworks and programme implementation.

Secretariat Briefs Member States on UN80 Initiative

UNEP Executive Director briefed Member States and accredited stakeholders about developments pertaining to the UN80 Initiative on two occasions, 23 April and 19 June. Member States also had an opportunity to engage with the UNEP on the topic during the 173rd meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in April where they expressed support for ongoing UN system reform efforts viewing them as an opportunity to strengthen the environmental dimension across the UN system. Delegations emphasized the need for transparency, inclusivity and meaningful consultation with Members of the Committee in the reform process and welcomed the planned briefings on the UN80 initiative during the 13th annual subcommittee meeting.

Governance and Bureau support

UNEP supported the governance and oversight functions of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) and the UNEA and CPR Bureaux in preparation for key meetings and UNEA-8. UNEP serviced Bureau meetings, provided substantive and procedural guidance, and coordinated preparations for the 173rd and 174th CPR meetings and the 13th annual subcommittee meeting. UNEP also facilitated the first joint meeting of the UNEA and CPR Bureaux and briefed members on recommendation 1 of the 2025 Joint Inspection Unit report. These efforts led to the approval of the agenda and structure of the annual subcommittee meeting (7–11 September) and agreement to build on the 2019–2022 CPR review process without duplicating previous work. The joint Bureau meeting reviewed outcomes of UNEA-7 and identified lessons to guide preparations for UNEA-8. UNEP will prepare documentation to support informed consideration of governance reforms and ensure continuity with past decisions.

Opportunities include building on UNEA-7 outcomes to strengthen governance and advance preparations for UNEA-8, while challenges relate to ensuring that follow-up to JIU recommendations complements existing CPR review processes. A key lesson is that institutional reforms are most effective when they build on established decisions and practices. UNEP will align documentation with prior CPR reviews to support Member State deliberations.

B. Regional Developments

i. Africa

Supporting Africa's Sustainable Development and Environmental Policy Priorities

UNEP supported Member States' engagement at the Twelfth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-12) (28–30 April) and contributed to regional policy discussions on Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and to the development of the Addis Ababa Declaration that sets out Africa's common position and policy messages for the 2026 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. At the High-Level Ministerial Roundtable on SDG 6, UNEP highlighted the importance of integrated water resources management, ecosystem restoration, pollution prevention, climate resilience and improved water governance. UNEP's technical and policy contributions helped ensure that environmental sustainability, the environmental crises and nature-based solutions were reflected in the Addis Ababa Outcome and in regional discussions on accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

ii. Asia and the Pacific

Advancing Regional Environmental Priorities

UNEP contributed to the eighty-second session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (20–24 April) held in Bangkok, Thailand, promoting regional action on sustainable development and environmental sustainability. UNEP highlighted the outcomes of UNEA-7, emphasizing the importance of just transition pathways and sustainable consumption and production in advancing sustainable development across Asia-Pacific. UNEP also underscored its co-leadership role on Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable

and Clean Energy) at the Thirteenth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development as well as ongoing efforts to support a just and inclusive energy transition.

UNEP further strengthened regional dialogue by participating in a side event organized jointly by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on Science, Innovation and Technology in Bioeconomy for Sustainable Transformation. Through this engagement, UNEP contributed environmental perspectives to discussions on the role of science, innovation and technology in accelerating sustainable development and supporting the transition to more sustainable and resource-efficient economies.

Strengthening UNEP–Japan Cooperation on Global Environmental Priorities

A high-level dialogue between Japan and UNEP (21 May), held in Tokyo, brought together Mr. Kentaro Doi, Vice Minister for Global Environmental Affairs Ministry of the Environment, Mr. Yuichi Oba, Ambassador for Global Health Diplomacy and Deputy Assistant Minister in the International Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP. The dialogue reaffirmed the strong partnership between Japan and UNEP and provided an opportunity to exchange views on pressing global environmental challenges. UNEP used the meeting to advance cooperation on key priorities, including strengthening synergies across multilateral environmental agreements, supporting implementation of UNEA resolutions, shaping discussions on the post-2030 agenda and contributing to United Nations reform under the UN80 process. The discussions also explored opportunities for deeper regional collaboration on biodiversity conservation, plastic pollution, chemicals and waste management, the circular economy, and climate action.

7th Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergies

UNEP participated in the 7th Global Conference on Climate and SDG Synergies, co-convened by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the UN Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, in collaboration with the UN ESCAP (29-30 June). The Asia-Pacific Synergies Report jointly developed by ESCAP, UNEP, ADB and IGES with support from Japan's Ministry of the Environment was launched on 30 June. UNEP highlighted the report as a practical roadmap for implementing UNEA synergies resolutions and supporting regional cooperation, including discussions on a Regional Programme of Action on advancing synergies for sustainable development at the ninth session of the ESCAP Committee on Environment and Development.

Financial Institutions Strengthen Capacity for Nature-Related Disclosures

Through UNEP FI, UNEP supported 32 banks, insurers, and investors from 12 countries across Asia and the Pacific to strengthen readiness for nature-related financial disclosures aligned with the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework. Through the regional Nature Reporting Preparer Forum, participating institutions built capacity on the TNFD LEAP approach, deepened understanding of nature-related risks and scenario analysis and explored pathways to mobilize nature-positive finance. The initiative also helped align financial institutions with emerging global sustainability disclosure standards and strengthened the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into financial decision-making.

iii. Europe

Key Environmental Cooperation Outcomes from the Regional Ecological Summit (RES) 2026

UNEP co-organized the inaugural Regional Ecological Summit (RES 2026) with the Government of Kazakhstan and partners (22–24 April), in Astana. The Summit provided a platform for countries and partners to develop practical, cooperative responses to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, with a particular focus on Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Key outcomes included:

- Launch of the Regional Partnership on the Circular Economy: Endorsed by the Heads of State of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, the framework developed a common regional understanding of circular economy approaches and supporting national commitments and actions.
- Establishment of a Regional Platform on Glaciers: This was created to strengthen regional cooperation on glacier management and water security as a response to growing concerns over accelerated glacier melt, which threatens freshwater supplies, agriculture, energy production and livelihoods across Central Asia.
- Adoption of the Regional Declaration on Biodiversity: The Declaration commits countries to strengthening data sharing, joint monitoring and coordinated action across sectors. It also promotes the mobilization of regional resources and the development of a regional action plan to support implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and other multilateral environmental agreements.
- Advancement of Regional Methane Mitigation Efforts: UNEP convened a technical workshop highlighting Central Asia as a significant methane-emission hotspot. The workshop showcased opportunities for emissions reduction through the International Methane Emissions Observatory and Methane Alert and Response System. It also identified key barriers, including data gaps and regulatory challenges, and emphasized the need for stronger policy, financial and institutional frameworks.
- Promotion of Mountain Resilience and Climate Adaptation: UNEP contributed to a dedicated event on mountains and climate change during RES 2026 (22–24 April), drawing attention to the increasing vulnerability of mountain ecosystems and communities. The event highlighted that temperatures are rising faster in mountain regions than in surrounding lowlands, with significant implications for water resources, ecosystems and livelihoods.

UNEP Supports New Action to Protect the Caspian Sea

UNEP helped advance regional cooperation to protect the Caspian Sea through a High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on the Tehran Convention (27 April). The Dialogue renewed political commitment to addressing the decline of the Caspian Sea, where water levels have fallen by approximately two metres since the 1990s. Ministers called for the accelerated adoption of a UNEP-facilitated regional action plan for the coming decade. The event also marked the formal launch of the Blueing the Caspian Sea Project, a major step in transboundary environmental cooperation among Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. The project will strengthen environmental monitoring systems and build national technical capacity to better assess and respond to environmental change.

iv. Latin America and the Caribbean

Strengthening Environmental Governance and Climate Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean

UNEP supported a meeting of the Bureau of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (20 May), which endorsed the Programme of Work (PoW) focused on accelerating ecosystem restoration, strengthening synergies among the Rio Conventions, improving access to environmental and climate finance, reducing methane emissions from waste, advancing regional approaches to carbon markets, addressing the growing impacts of

sargassum influxes and enhancing the effectiveness of the Forum. UNEP reported on progress in implementing the outcomes of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Forum, helping maintain continuity between ministerial decisions and regional action.

Coordinated Regional Support on Climate Change and Resilience

UNEP further strengthened regional climate coordination through its co-leadership, with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), of the Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change and Resilience for Latin America and the Caribbean. Through the Coalition, UNEP helped provide coordinated support to Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams on the implications of COP30 outcomes, regional climate risks and resilience priorities. This support contributed to greater coherence across the United Nations system and strengthened assistance to Member States in addressing climate-related challenges.

Strengthening Environmental Law Through the Escazú Agreement

The Escazú Agreement (21–24 April) in Nassau, Bahamas, represented an important milestone in strengthening implementation of the region's legally binding framework on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. UNEP supported the Conference through technical cooperation and substantive contributions that promoted environmental rule of law, strengthened institutional capacities and advanced dialogue on the protection of environmental human rights defenders, consistent with the objectives of the Montevideo Programme on Environmental Law.

Through side events and knowledge-sharing activities, including the presentation of experiences from the Peace, Action, Resilience and Sustainability in Latin American Landscapes initiative (PARES), UNEP facilitated regional exchange on practical approaches to strengthening environmental governance, promoting access to justice and supporting implementation of the Escazú Agreement. This exchange supports stronger and more transparent institutions in the region.

UN Global Compact Business and Human Rights Week

The Business Week on Human Rights was held on the margins of the 10th Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights (8–11 June) in Panama City, Republic of Panama. Organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the forum looks at strengthening the role of the business sector while implementing the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

UNEP participated in a high-level panel alongside fellow UN agencies and international organizations, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), OHCHR, and UNICEF. During the discussion, UNEP highlighted the strategic role of environmental governance in enabling sustainable business practices. UNEP emphasized that public participation and prior consultation are core components of responsible territorial management, not only compliance obligations. By embedding these approaches into corporate decision-making, companies can help prevent socio-environmental conflicts, strengthen stakeholder trust and reduce operational, reputational and financial risks.

Adoption of the One Health Strategy for the Central American Integration System (SICA)

Ministries of health, agriculture, and environment from Central America and the Dominican Republic endorsed the One Health Strategy for the Central American Integration System (SICA) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (9 April). The strategy focuses on regional

health security, multisectoral collaboration and modernized health surveillance. The adoption of the strategy establishes a strategic framework for coordinated regional action. By prioritizing the human–animal–environment interface, countries aim to strengthen resilience and improve preparedness. It is the first regionally endorsed commitment of its kind.

UNEP contributed in its drafting phase as a member of the interagency steering committee, ensuring that environmental considerations were fully integrated and recognized as a critical component of effective intersectoral collaboration in implementing the One Health approach.

v. West Asia

Launch of Jordan's Third State of Environment Report

UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia, in partnership with the UNDP Country Office, supported the development and launch of Jordan's third State of Environment Report (2 April) by Jordan's Minister of Environment marking a key milestone in strengthening environmental assessment and reporting in the country. UNEP provided funding through the Shared Environmental Information System III (SEIS III) project and provided technical oversight throughout the process. The Ministry of Environment led the report's development, with national authorities validating the drafts before finalizing the report, which strengthened evidence-based decision-making through a nationally owned assessment. UNEP helped deepen collaboration among the Ministry of Environment, UNDP, and national experts and institutions. Coordinating multiple stakeholders and review rounds required significant time but improved the report's quality and credibility. Continuous engagement, transparent consultation, and strong national ownership proved essential for producing robust environmental assessments that support policy development and future reporting.

UNEP Strengthens Sustainability Integration in Higher Education Through Saudi Green University Initiative

UNEP provided technical support to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA) of Saudi Arabia and the Council of Universities Affairs to launch the Saudi Green University Network Initiative (GUNI) during Saudi Environment Week in Riyadh (4–7 May). A series of training sessions was held covering topics of sustainability governance and strategy, green education and research, resource management, and the use of innovative technologies for sustainable campus operations. This initiative brought together representatives from more than 20 public and private universities. UNEP's support strengthened institutional capacities, enhanced collaboration among universities, and accelerated efforts to integrate sustainability across the higher education sector.

2 Programme of Work Implementation

A. Climate Action thematic subprogramme

Enhanced National Climate Transparency and Reporting Capacities

UNEP supported developing countries to build their national transparency systems for unlocking investment and strengthening Paris Agreement reporting. With UNEP's support, eleven countries[2] began implementation of GEF country projects on transparency, and six countries (Belize, Côte d'Ivoire, Kiribati, Nauru, Qatar and Tuvalu) submitted official reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Through the UNEP-led Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP), UNEP co-organized one Global Transparency Community Meetingfive regional and eight national workshops, engaging over 140 experts from 83 countries, and supported eight countries in securing GEF approval for future transparency initiatives to a total of US$11 million. These activities reinforced technical capacities and reporting capacities for Paris Agreement, Article 13.

Global Methane Monitoring and Accountability Strengthened

Through the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), UNEP advanced methane mitigation at the China Methane Summit (26–27 May), Beijing. IMEO co-hosted a Hong Kong workshop on methane observation and quantification (8–9 June) and the Third Methane Summit for Latin America and the Caribbean (8–9 June, Brasília), and it launched new Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) data products and coal-and-waste alerts online (23 April). At a G7 Presidency event in Paris (4 May) IMEO launched the Coal Methane Database and a MARS Response Blueprint with the International Energy Agency (IEA). The database, a first mine-level dataset covering nearly 250 mines, reinforces UNEP's data-driven methane accountability.

Stronger International Cooperation on Methane and Super-Pollutant Reduction

New Methane Regulator-to-Regulator (MR2R) Network, with 30 government entities and the IEA, was launched by UNEP and CCAC Secretariat (14–15 April), in Paris. Egypt, Brazil and Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Fossil Fuel Regulatory Programme during London Climate Action Week, while a super-pollutants reception in the same week convened world leaders around accelerated super-pollutant action (24 June), among which His Majesty King Charles III and the UN Secretary-General. At the Zero Waste Forum (5–7 June) in Istanbul, UNEP spotlighted food waste prevention as a major climate opportunity, sharing updates on the Food Waste Breakthrough initiative. These milestones further elevated action on super pollutants and methane ahead of COP31.

Accelerated Low-Carbon Urban and Building Transformation

UNEP advanced climate mitigation in the urban and built environment through various initiatives. On 13 April it launched a US$ 5.2 million GEF-funded initiative to support low-carbon and nature-positive urban development in Nairobi, led by the Government of Kenya and executed by UN-Habitat. It co-hosted the Sustainable Buildings and Construction Summit 2026 (20–22 April, Lausanne) with EPFL and the Global Alliance for Buildings and

[2] Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Tuvalu, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, Maldives, Rwanda, Ecuador, Ghana, and Solomon Islands

Construction (GlobalABC). The summit featured the first in-person Technical Meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings (ICBC), bringing together representatives from 26 countries to shape upcoming ICBC Country Dialogues. At the World Urban Forum 13 in Baku, Azerbaijan (17-22 May), UNEP organized and contributed to numerous sessions including 17 UNEP-led events, enhancing visibility of its urban work and fostering new partnerships across governments, cities, UN agencies, IFIs, and the private sector. A key milestone was the launch of the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction 2025–2026 by GlobalABC and UNEP, reinforcing urgency and opportunity in reducing emissions from the built environment. The report finds that building energy intensity fell 8.5 per cent over the decade, yet investment in energy efficiency must rise to US$5.9 trillion by 2030 to reach net-zero by 2050.

Expanded Access to Climate Technologies and Innovation

At the 64th UNFCCC Subsidiary Body sessions in Bonn, Parties recommended UNEP as host for the Climate Technology Centre (CTC) for the upcoming 15 years, after a competitive bidding process involving 22 proposals. UNEP further advanced access to climate technology through a global call to join the GEF-funded Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Project (5 June). To date, the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) TNA Project has supported around 100 countries, and TNA-informed initiatives have helped leverage more than US$2.9 billion for climate technology implementation worldwide. These developments cement UNEP's role as a key partner for climate technology transfers.

Innovative Climate Adaptation Solutions Scaled Across Vulnerable Regions

In Bonn, Germany, UNEP-CCC co-convened a symposium to strengthen action on non-economic losses and damages (4–5 May). In Belize, UNEP supported the launch of a call for proposals to identify 15 innovative climate adaptation solutions across Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (18 May). The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) initiative will deliver 15 technical assistance packages to help pilot adaptation solutions. The symposium identified priority actions, launched UNEP's Loss and Damage Guide, and generated recommendations to support ongoing international and national efforts.

Strengthened National and Urban Heat Resilience through Sustainable Cooling

The UNEP-convened Cool Coalition advanced sustainable cooling by publishing the ASEAN Passive Cooling Roadmap on 7 April in Manila, supported Brazil's 3rd National Meeting of the Green and Resilient Cities Programme (7–8 May) in Brasília and assisted the launches of National Cooling Action Plans in Somalia and Djibouti (11 and 13–14 May). The plans establish coordination mechanisms and national priorities for sustainable cooling, while the Brazilian convening hosted 45 cities with sessions on local heat action planning, nature-based and passive cooling solutions, and financing. A new Global Demand Flexibility Programme was jointly announced by UNEP and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) at London Climate Action Week (20–28 June). The initiative will support developing countries in scaling demand flexibility across buildings, cooling, transport and industry, while aligning implementation priorities for more than 250 cities participating in the Beat the Heat initiative.

Nature-based Climate Action and Forest Finance Expanded

UNEP advanced nature-based solutions through calls for proposals under the Nature-Based Solutions Innovation Accelerator (NBS-IA) for Africa and Central Asia (2 and 8 April) with over 300 attendees. It organized the inaugural Africa Safeguards and Integrity Working Group under UN-REDD (8 April 2026) in Palazzo San Giorgio, Genoa, Italy, and online, bringing

together safeguards practitioners and policymakers from African REDD+ partner countries. A London Climate Action Week workshop on forest finance enabled peer exchange among 80 first movers in sustainable land use finance, along with project developers and Indigenous Peoples and local communities on (24 June).

Improved Climate Observation and Early Warning Capacities

During the second quarter of 2026, UNEP advanced Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) investments in Bhutan to strengthen weather observation and climate data systems. The intervention supported installation of the country's first Global Basic Observing Network-compliant weather station in Damphu, Tsirang (17 June), alongside technical training for national meteorological staff. UNEP also co-convened the SOFF 14th Steering Committee Meeting with UNDP and WMO in Brussels, Belgium (27–29 May). Amongst others, the meeting resulted in the adoption of the SOFF Compliance Phase Framework, which provides long-term, results-based financing to help countries maintain their basic observing systems on a sustained basis.

B. Nature Action : land, ocean and freshwater thematic subprogramme

Updates On UNEP's Progress on Tackling Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

- **World Desertification and Drought Day Highlights the Importance of Restoring Rangelands**

UNEP supported the Government of Kenya in hosting the global observance of World Desertification and Drought Day under the theme "Recognize, Respect and Restore" in Vipingo, Kenya (17 June). The event raised the profile of rangelands, which support around two billion people, contribute 16 per cent of global food production and cover more than half of the Earth's land surface, yet remain undervalued. UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen addressed the event and underscored the importance of the observance in the lead-up to the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) in Mongolia. She called for greater attention to land health and emphasized the need to keep rangelands at the centre of global action on sustainable land management.

- **Restoring the Floodplain: Launching Nature-based Restoration to Combat Drought and Land Degradation in Somalia**

In Somalia's Shabelle River Basin, decades of conflict, recurrent drought, and the collapse of water management infrastructure have accelerated land degradation, soil erosion, vegetation loss, and declining agricultural productivity. When UNEP-led survey teams walked the floodplain around Jowhar in early 2026, they found a landscape stripped almost bare. Across 152 survey plots, only twelve trees were standing. Soil testing confirmed what local communities already knew – that some of the most productive historical lands in the Horn of Africa now hold little organic matter and less and less water every season.

The Jowhar Offstream Storage Programme is a government-led flagship initiative implemented by FAO, UNEP, IOM, UNIDO and UN-Habitat. Together, the UN is supporting a landscape-scale approach that combines the rehabilitation of critical water infrastructure with ecosystem restoration, sustainable water management, and environmental governance to combat drought, land degradation, and climate vulnerability.

Working with communities and the Somali government, UNEP recently initiated support to improve science and planning boosted livelihoods while protecting one of Somalia's most important agricultural and rangeland systems that ultimately supports 1.65 million people.

This initiative demonstrates how community-led integrated landscape restoration can deliver multiple benefits for people and ecosystems. By restoring the land and water systems that underpin food production, the programme also aims to reduce pressures that drive displacement and competition over natural resources and strengthen climate resilience for communities vulnerable to drought.

- **African Countries Strengthen Capacity for UNCCD Reporting and Land Degradation Monitoring**

UNEP, in partnership with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat, delivered two regional capacity-building workshops for African Parties to the Convention—one for Francophone countries in Dakar, Senegal (18–22 May) and another for Anglophone countries in Nairobi, Kenya (15–19 June). Through technical training, guided exercises and peer learning, 94 national reporting officers from 52 African countries improved their understanding of the UNCCD reporting framework, indicators and reporting obligations. The workshops also strengthened national capacity to apply the methodology and data requirements for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 15.3.1 on land degradation neutrality, including its associated sub-indicators.

- **UNEP Portfolio Review Highlights Biodiversity and Land Restoration Results Across 148 Countries**

UNEP undertook its Global Environment Facility (GEF) Biodiversity and Land Degradation Portfolio Implementation Review, highlighting results achieved across 148 countries. The review reports that 13.2 million hectares of land have been protected or restored, 2.35 million people have benefited directly, and 438 financial institutions and entities have integrated biodiversity considerations into their operations.

These results were delivered through 118 biodiversity conservation and land restoration projects. The portfolio contributes to 16 of the 23 targets of the KMGBF, relevant targets under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the objectives of the UNEP MTS.

- **UNEP Launches Watershed Restoration Project to Advance Land Recovery in Saint Vincent**

UNEP launched the Watershed Action for Restoring Ecosystems in the South Corridor of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines project at the 71st Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (3 June). The US$6.1 million initiative will restore at least 200 hectares of degraded land and improve the management of 3,300 hectares of watersheds. The project will also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in achieving its land degradation neutrality targets.

UNEP and IUCN Update Global Protected Areas Database, Marking 10 per cent Ocean Protection

UNEP, jointly with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) through the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), updated the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas, confirming that 10 per cent of the global ocean is now officially protected (1 April).

UNEP Issues Guidance to Embed Nature Considerations in Social Engagement Functions

UNEP-WCMC, through the Proteus Partnership, released new guidance to help businesses integrate nature considerations into social engagement functions (8 April). As part of the Every Job is a Nature Job series, the guidance provides practical approaches for embedding nature-positive practices across business operations.

West Asian Countries Set Regional Priorities for Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation

UNEP convened a regional consultation with the National Center for Wildlife, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, the International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia (IUCN ROWA) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), bringing together more than 100 representatives from 11 West Asian countries (14–15 April). Participants identified regional priorities for biodiversity and wildlife conservation, strengthened cooperation on species conservation and agreed on strategic priorities for the Regional Biodiversity and Wildlife Programme.

UNEP Supports Biodiversity Finance and Governance Exchange Between Vanuatu and Ecuador

UNEP, through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) Accelerator Partnership, supported a South–South exchange between Vanuatu and Ecuador to strengthen biodiversity finance and governance under Vanuatu's revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (5–10 May). The exchange enabled participants to draw lessons from the Galápagos conservation model and explore their application to biodiversity planning, financing and governance in Vanuatu.

Nature Action Dialogues Advance Private Sector Collaboration for Biodiversity

UNEP hosted the 2026 Nature Action Dialogues under the theme "Countdown to 2030: Aligning Ambition, Scaling Integrated Action" (12 May). In its third year, the Dialogues brought together more than 200 participants from business, finance, government, civil society and Indigenous Peoples. Participants explored ways to strengthen private sector collaboration, integrate nature into decision-making and increase financing and investment to scale nature action.

Bhutan Launches Nature4Health Scoping Phase to Strengthen One Health Planning

Bhutan launched the scoping phase of the Nature4Health (N4H) Phase II programme following the successful submission of the Scoping Project Documents, demonstrating its commitment to advancing an integrated One Health approach (13 May). As an N4H partner, UNEP will work with four national ministries to identify high-risk geographies and priority zoonotic diseases. UNEP will also support the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem health into national health security planning through coordinated, multisectoral action, helping to strengthen pandemic prevention, climate resilience and community well-being.

Country Engagement Sessions Shape Future Water Quality Support in the Wider Caribbean

UNEP and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat convened English- and Spanish-language country engagement sessions for the Capacity Development Project on Water Quality in the Wider Caribbean Region (13 May). The sessions brought together 52 participants from governments and partner institutions to review project progress, identify national needs, and agree on priorities for future training and technical support.

UNEP Updates Global Databases on Protected and Conserved Areas

UNEP, together with partner institutions, released updated data from the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPA) and the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WDOECM) (1 June). The updates strengthen the global evidence base used to support conservation policy, planning and management.

UNEP jointly manages the WDPA with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). As the world's most comprehensive database on marine and terrestrial protected areas, the WDPA provides critical information for tracking and supporting conservation efforts worldwide. UNEP also supports the WDOECM, which complements protected area data by documenting areas that achieve sustained biodiversity conservation outcomes, including areas managed for purposes other than conservation.

Uzbekistan Launches Nature4Health Scoping Phase to Advance One Health Action

Uzbekistan launched the scoping phase of the Nature4Health (N4H) Phase II programme following the successful submission of the Scoping Project Documents, marking the start of a participatory process to strengthen preventive One Health approaches in the country (3 June). As an N4H partner, UNEP will support the Ministry of Ecology in bringing together stakeholders from the environment, health and related sectors to develop context-specific solutions. This collaborative process will help strengthen the integration of environmental considerations into national One Health planning and action.

UNEP Advances Ocean Governance and Regional Cooperation at the Our Ocean Conference

UNEP joined governments, regional organizations, scientists and partners at the 11th Our Ocean Conference (OOC11) in Mombasa, Kenya, to advance action on the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), ocean governance, marine biodiversity, the blue economy and other priorities for healthy and sustainably managed oceans (16-18 June). UNEP organized seven side events that brought together governments, regional organizations and other ocean stakeholders to discuss regional priorities, strengthen partnerships and promote coordinated action for ocean conservation and sustainable ocean management.

The Conference provided UNEP with a key platform to advance ocean governance, strengthen regional cooperation, and support implementation of global commitments on marine biodiversity and the BBNJ Agreement. The conference also created opportunities to mobilize political support, enhance collaboration across regions, and advance financing and action for ocean conservation and sustainable development.

Strengthening Source-To-Sea Solutions for Water Quality and Marine Pollution

UNEP advanced source-to-sea responses to water quality and marine pollution through country engagement, regional coordination and technical guidance. In the Wider Caribbean, bilingual sessions with 20 countries (13 May) identified active coastal water monitoring efforts, alongside gaps in financing, laboratory capacity, equipment, data systems, quality assurance and policy uptake. These findings will guide targeted UNEP support to strengthen harmonized monitoring, reporting and evidence-based action under the Cartagena Convention framework.

UNEP also convened a webinar (2 April) to support implementation of UNEA 7/4 resolution on Sargassum seaweed blooms, sharing scientific insights, Wider Caribbean experiences and Ghana's management approaches to build a common basis for coordinated national, regional and global action.

In Asia, UNEP and COBSEA launched Thailand's GEF Clean and Healthy Oceans project in Bangkok on 7–8 May, which aims to reduce nutrient pollution and address coastal hypoxic zones, a result of effluents and waste entering water bodies from tourism, agriculture, fishing ports and seafood processing. The first Project Steering Committee approved the annual workplan and budget.

C. Chemicals and pollution action thematic subprogramm

1. Upscaling Circular, Zero-Pollution, Toxic-Free Solutions in High Impact Sectors and Value Chains

Strengthening Plastics Monitoring and Circular PET Packaging

UNEP advanced plastics action through improved monitoring and circular economy support. With the Nordic Council of Ministers, UNEP convened a workshop (27–28 May), in Oslo, to strengthen country capacity to monitor plastics across the lifecycle and use the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML) Global Plastics Hub for evidence-based national action. Participants exchanged on monitoring approaches, common indicators, data gaps and good-practice methodologies. A follow-up session held on the margins of the informal INC Heads of Delegation meeting (29 June) in Nairobi, confirmed continued country interest in the Hub and GPML knowledge-sharing.

UNEP is supporting requesting countries with project design questions in the food and beverage sector. In Malaysia, UNEP, Eco-Ideal and Universiti Malaya, with support from the Embassy of Japan, launched Phase 2 of work on circular PET packaging at a stakeholder meeting (9 June) in Kuala Lumpur. Government, industry, academic and donor participants identified key barriers to PET circularity and endorsed proposed measures, including Minimum Recycled Content policies and an EPR-linked recycling purchase assistance mechanism to strengthen demand and supply for recycled PET.

Strengthening Chemicals Management for Safer and More Circular Textile Value Chains

UNEP, with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA) and BRS Convention Secretariat, under the GEF Asia Textile Project, convened a webinar to strengthen regulatory and technical capacity for chemicals management in the textile sector, focusing on harmful persistent organic pollutants, including Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The session emphasized Stockholm Convention implementation, including regulatory frameworks, BAT/BEP guidance, process optimization, and national compliance and enforcement experiences. Participants highlighted the need for stronger policies, practical tools and enhanced global coordination to reduce harmful chemicals and support safer, more circular textile value chains.

Driving Cleaner Transport Transitions Across Road and Aviation Sectors

UNEP is advancing cleaner transport transitions across aviation and road sectors through regional policy support. In aviation, UNEP is implementing the GEF-funded FIRE Project to phase out toxic fluorinated firefighting foams and introduce safer alternatives at major airports in Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. With the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, UNEP conducted a fire drill demonstrating effective non-PFAS foam use in civil aviation, highlighting Kenya's leadership

and a model that can be replicated across the region with the aim of eliminating harmful chemical exposure for airport workers and surrounding communities.

In ASEAN, UNEP supported a regional workshop (28 April) to review a draft roadmap for electric heavy-duty vehicles, addressing policy, financing, and implementation priorities. UNEP provided technical expertise on charging infrastructure, electric bus deployment and battery circularity, in coordination with International Council on Clean Transportation and Clean Air Asia. Country feedback will inform a final consultation in July 2026, with recommendations tailored to ASEAN's consensus-based review and endorsement process.

2. Promoting The Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Across Sectors

Mobilizing Global and Regional Action to Reduce Risks from Highly Hazardous Pesticides

UNEP advanced global and regional action to reduce risks from exposure to highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) through partnerships, policy dialogue and stakeholder mobilization. The Fifth Session International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) established the Global Alliance on Highly Hazardous Pesticides as a voluntary, multi-stakeholder platform to support implementation of related targets under the Global Framework on Chemicals. Led by a UN task force of FAO, UNDP, UNEP and WHO, with input from an Interim Steering Committee, the Alliance is mobilizing expertise, resources, and coordinated action, with call for membership now open to stakeholders committed to reducing the risks posed in using HHPs. There is no requirement for exporting countries to stop exports of products they have banned in their own countries despite the environment and human health risks.

On the margins of the 79th World Health Assembly, UNEP co-sponsored a side event (20 May) in Geneva on pesticide suicide prevention, promoting policy alignment, regulatory harmonization, resource mobilization and multisectoral collaboration. UNEP and partners emphasized sound chemicals management, global partnerships and integrated public health approaches to reduce pesticide-related harms and protect vulnerable communities.

Regionally, UNEP and the Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention at the University of Edinburgh convened a virtual consultation on highly hazardous pesticides (30 June) under the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Action Plan on Chemicals and Waste 2026–2029. The consultation supported coordinated action to reduce reliance on HHPs by strengthening knowledge exchange, identifying risks and governance gaps, sharing good practices and safer alternatives, and enhancing international cooperation.

Addressing Mercury in Cosmetics for Health, Equity and Inclusion

UNEP participated in a GEF Assembly side event in Samarkand (5 June) highlighting the links between pollution, gender equality, social inclusion and climate action. Under the theme "Leaving No One Behind," UNEP focused on mercury in skin-lightening products as a public health, environmental and human rights issue affecting women and children, while addressing the social norms and discriminatory beauty standards that drive demand. Beyond mercury, there are still other harmful chemicals that are used in cosmetics, posing a serious health and environment risk.

UNEP also launched an awareness-raising video amplifying advocates' voices and promoting safer, more inclusive consumer practices. Consumers are often unknowingly purchasing products that can have harmful exposure risks owing to the lack of standardized consumer information. The event strengthened dialogue and partnership opportunities around reducing

mercury pollution, advancing health equity, and supporting cultural diversity and racial inclusivity.

Advancing Solutions to Reduce Pollution from Used Lead-Acid Batteries

UNEP and the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution co-organized a side event during the fifteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Open-Ended Working Group (23–26 June), in Geneva on reducing pollution and exposure from used lead-acid batteries (ULABs). The event showcased practical solutions and emerging tools to strengthen policies, monitoring and environmentally sound battery management. It brought together governments, international organizations, technical experts and industry partners to share country experiences, innovative approaches and collaborative actions supporting safer ULABs management and a circular, sustainable battery value chain.

3. Strengthening Environmental Solutions for Pollution Prevention, Public Health and Antimicrobial Resistance

Advancing Regional Clean Air Cooperation in Central Asia

The 2nd High-Level Regional Policy Dialogue on Clean Air Action in Central Asia (23 April) in Astana, Kazakhstan, brought together Central Asian governments and partners to advance UNEA resolution 6/10 and move clean-air cooperation toward practical delivery. Organized by Uzbekistan's National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change with UNEP and the World Bank, the Dialogue identified priorities for stronger monitoring, satellite data, harmonized methodologies, air-quality standards and indexes, sand and dust storm early warning, and investment pipelines to reduce pollution-related health risks. A key outcome was discussion of the proposed "Clean Air of Central Asia" Consortium to support data exchange, joint projects, green finance and coordinated action. Subsequent UNEP-supported work in Samarkand advanced city-level air quality assessments in Uzbekistan and positioned clean air and sand and dust storm action as linked priorities for public health, urban resilience and sustainable development.

Translating Global Antimicrobial Resistance Commitments into Country-Level Environmental Action

UNEP advanced country-level implementation of global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) commitments by strengthening the environmental dimension of One Health responses. The updated Global Action Plan on AMR 2026–2036, developed by the Quadripartite organizations, fully integrates environmental considerations and supports implementation of the 2024 UN Political Declaration, providing practical guidance for context-specific National Action Plans across human, animal, plant, food and environmental sectors.

UNEP supported countries in translating these commitments into action. A regional workshop in Montenegro helped Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Serbia identify practical environmental AMR priorities linked to their National Action Plans. In Lebanon, UNEP supported a national webinar to strengthen environmental AMR surveillance, promote cross-sectoral coordination and exchange lessons with Jordan. In Madagascar, UNEP and the Environmental Compliance Institute helped identify key environmental drivers of AMR through evidence review, consultations and a national One Health workshop, generating recommendations across health, agriculture, environment, water and sanitation, and food systems.

In Africa, UNEP and partners[3] are advancing wastewater and environmental surveillance under a One Health approach through both technical guidance and targeted knowledge exchange. A forthcoming flagship publication, expected in July 2026, will provide practical tools, a regional roadmap and lessons from Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa. UNEP also convened a webinar, which highlighted wastewater surveillance as a complementary population-level monitoring tool and identified technical and governance gaps for integration into national AMR monitoring and policy systems.

D. Foundational Subprogrammes

i. Science-policy

Science, Knowledge and Innovation Strengthen UNEP's Support to Member States

In this quarter, UNEP launched its Knowledge Management Strategy and its Science Strategy both of which will serve as internal frameworks to enhance scientific capacities, knowledge sharing and evidence uptake across UNEP. UNEP further reinforced scientific leadership through the appointment of Dr. Edward R. Carr as the interim Chair of the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, and through its participation in the UN Scientific Advisory Board meeting in Italy during the month of June. The UNEP Executive Director also participated in the UN Behavioural Science Week where, among other things, she announced the launch of UNEP's Behavioural Science Community of Practice (4 June).

This quarter highlighted the opportunity to strengthen institutional coherence and enhance the use of science and knowledge in decision-making through stronger collaboration and leadership. A key challenge will be translating strategic ambitions into sustained organizational change, requiring continued investment in capacity, coordination and staff engagement. Embedding new approaches is most effective when supported by strong governance, communities of practice and engagement with external scientific networks.

Environmental SDG Monitoring and Reporting Enhanced

As custodian agency, UNEP plays a key role in monitoring progress on 25 SDG indicators under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Based on this data, UNEP contributed to the Secretary-General's SDG Progress Report 2026 and the Sustainable Development Goals Report, revising draft content and statistical annexes for SDGs 6, 8, 12, 14, 15 and 17, and supporting related progress assessments. More details are available in the full list of the SDG indicators.

Evidence-Based Guidance Provided on Solar Radiation Modification

UNEP published the Solar Radiation Modification: Scientific Evidence Does Not Support SRM as a Viable Climate Solution Working Paper, providing an up-to-date synthesis of the current scientific understanding of solar radiation modification (SRM). Building on the analytical foundation established in the 2023 One Atmosphere report, the paper examines the potential risks, uncertainties and knowledge gaps associated with SRM, while offering an evidence-based basis for informed and inclusive discussions among Member States and policymakers on emerging SRM governance issues.

UNEP led the development of the Working Paper, drawing on its science–policy convening role and previous analytical work to ensure that the publication reflects the latest scientific

[3] UNU-INWEH, WHO and Africa CDC

evidence. The paper strengthens the evidence base for precautionary consideration of SRM, an area often subject to misinformation. It supports more transparent policy discussion of the potential role and governance of SRM.

Continued Global Communication and Outreach on the GEO-7

UNEP has been organizing outreach events with regional offices and partner institutions to raise awareness of GEO-7 findings and support policymaking at regional and national levels. These included targeted events in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific, as well as engagements with the Government of Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, alongside expert contributions at major fora such as the GEF Integrated Programs Forum and the One Health Summit. Similar events are planned with the Geneva Environment Network, the European Parliament and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

Outreach was further strengthened through translations of the GEO-7 Executive Summary into Chinese, German, Korean, and Spanish, with thanks to the support of, respectively, Fuzhou University, the German Translation Section of the United Nations in New York, the Korea Environment Institute (KEI); and the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO); and the launch of an education programme by the Korea Environment Institute based on the report. In addition, the GEO methodology continues to be used to engage Member States at the country level, including through national state of the environment processes such as GEO-Barbados or GEO Malawi.

ii. Environmental law and governance

Malawi Adopts Stronger Foundations for Environmental Governance and Renewable Energy Development with UNEP Support

UNEP, through the UNEP-Norway Energy for Development Collaboration (2024–2029), supported two major milestones to strengthen environmental governance and sustainable development in Malawi. In partnership with the Malawi Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) and GRID-Arendal, UNEP supported the development and launch of the Malawi National State of the Environment and Outlook Report (5 June). The report provides a nationally endorsed assessment of environmental trends, risks, and priorities and supports the integration of environmental considerations into Malawi Vision 2063, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and sectoral development plans.

Building on the report findings, UNEP also supported the validation of the Legal, Policy and Institutional Review (LPR) on Strengthening Environmental Mainstreaming in Renewable Energy Development in Malawi (9 June). Working with MEPA and government partners, UNEP provided technical leadership, facilitated stakeholder consultations, and guided the validation of recommendations to strengthen environmental governance in the renewable energy sector.

Together, these processes strengthened the evidence base for environmental decision-making and enhanced national dialogue on sustainable development, environmental governance, and renewable energy. The LPR identified priority reforms, including improved institutional coordination, stronger compliance and enforcement mechanisms, finalization of ESIA and SEA regulations, better management of e-waste, and greater application of circular economy approaches.

Stronger Air Quality Regulations Advance in the Dominican Republic

In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic and the Clean Air Institute (CAI), UNEP continued supporting the development of stronger national air quality regulations. A technical roundtable convened in Santo Domingo (27 April) brought together 23 participants to review the draft Environmental Technical Regulation on atmospheric pollutant emissions from stationary sources. The meeting supported technical review and stakeholder input for the proposed regulation, which was subsequently opened for public consultation (30 April–6 July).

UNEP Strengthens Climate Transparency Capacity in Seychelles

As part of its support to Seychelles on climate legislation and Paris Agreement implementation, UNEP, the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, and the Inter-Parliamentary Union delivered training on the Enhanced Transparency Framework (27–30 April). The programme combined an online session with an in-person workshop in Victoria, Seychelles, reaching 24 participants from government institutions and the National Assembly. UNEP's support strengthened national capacity to develop a coordinated and robust transparency framework and enhanced understanding of reporting and transparency requirements under the Paris Agreement.

Regional Parliamentarians Advance a Shared Agenda for Climate Action and Just Transition

UNEP participated in the first anniversary meeting of PARLATINO's Parliamentary Alliance for Climate Action and a Just Transition in Panama City (5 June). The meeting reviewed progress made by the Alliance, which now comprises 23 members and 8 associate members, and explored priorities for future collaboration. Discussions focused on strengthening the Alliance's work on climate-related capacity-building and regional cooperation. Participants also reviewed progress on the Parliamentary Charter on Climate Action drafted with UNEP support. The Charter is expected to be submitted to the PARLATINO Assembly later in 2026. The meeting concluded with agreement to further consolidate the Alliance as a regional platform for coordinated legislative action on climate change and to develop an 18-month workplan guided by the Charter.

UNEP Strengthens Climate Law and Policy Data for Informed Climate Action

At the London Climate Action Week workshop, "The Climate Law and Policy Data Ecosystem: Synthesizing the Evidence and Understanding User Needs" (26 June), UNEP showcased its Law and Climate Change Toolkit alongside other leading climate policy data platforms. The event, organized by the London School of Economics, the Grantham Research Institute, the TPI Global Climate Transition Centre, and Oxford Climate Policy Monitor, brought together climate data providers and users to improve access to climate law and policy information. UNEP used the forum to gather feedback on evolving user needs, identify opportunities for collaboration, and exchange lessons learned with other platforms. The discussions helped strengthen efforts to improve climate policy tracking and support evidence-based climate decision-making.

Environmental Law Clinics Strengthen Collaboration on Environmental Justice

UNEP contributed to the Fifth Meeting of the Alliance of Environmental Legal Clinics of Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile (6–8 May), bringing together environmental legal clinics from 11 countries and a range of national and international organizations. During the meeting, UNEP shared experiences from the Montevideo Programme V and environmental law initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region, while also presenting key findings on just transition. The event provided a platform for dialogue on environmental justice and legal empowerment and concluded with the adoption of the Santiago Declaration.

Ahead of the meeting (5 May), UNEP participated in a strategic working session to co-design the mission, vision, and roadmap of the emerging Global Network of Environmental Law Clinics (GNELC). The initiative seeks to connect environmental law clinic networks globally through a collaborative approach rooted in Global South perspectives, strengthening cooperation, knowledge exchange, and access to environmental justice.

UNEP–UEF Course Builds Capacity for Environmental Negotiations on Critical Energy Transition Minerals

UNEP and the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) delivered the 20th annual UNEP–UEF Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Helsinki (1–10 June). This year's course focused on critical energy transition minerals (CETMs), with particular attention to environmental law, governance, and ongoing intergovernmental processes, including discussions at UNEA.

UNEP contributed to the design and delivery of the programme through expert lectures, negotiation simulations, panel discussions, and mentoring. The course brought together 24 participants from 21 countries and strengthened their capacity to engage in international environmental negotiations, while fostering knowledge exchange on MEAs, sustainable resource management, and environmental governance.

The course continues to provide a valuable platform for advancing UNEP's work on environmental law and governance, while fostering international cooperation and professional networks that support MEA implementation. Sustaining long-term funding remains important to ensure the continuation and growth of the programme. The partnership between UNEP and UEF continues to demonstrate the value of combining academic expertise with practical negotiation experience to build capacity among current and future environmental leaders.

UNEP Advances Environmental Rule of Law Through Legal and Enforcement Dialogue in China

UNEP contributed to two high-level dialogues in China that strengthened international cooperation on environmental rule of law and implementation (8–9 June). Working with partners including the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China, the Chinese Society of Environmental and Resource Law, and ClientEarth China, UNEP shared technical expertise on environmental law, governance, and enforcement.

At a roundtable on the role of prosecutors in global environmental governance (8 June), UNEP highlighted the contribution of justice actors to implementing and enforcing environmental law and achieving internationally agreed environmental goals. The event brought together prosecutors and experts from China, Brazil, Mongolia, and Viet Nam to exchange experiences and identify opportunities for cooperation.

Following that, UNEP participated in a workshop on the implementation of China's newly adopted Ecological and Environmental Code (9 June). Discussions brought together government representatives, lawmakers, international organizations, and civil society to examine implementation across climate, biodiversity, chemicals, and waste. UNEP emphasized the importance of environmental law principles and coordinated action in strengthening environmental governance and advancing environmental rule of law globally.

Environmental Transparency and Access to Information Support Stronger Environmental Governance

UNEP co-organized the webinar "Environmental Transparency and Citizen Participation: Best Practices for Sustainable Development" with the Transparency and Access to Information Network (RTA), Argentina's access to information authorities, and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) (17 June). The event brought together more than 250 participants from Latin America and Ibero-America, including public authorities, international organizations, and policy experts.

UNEP highlighted the role of environmental rule of law, access rights, and environmental transparency in advancing sustainable development. The webinar also showcased UNEP tools and knowledge products, including the Emissions Gap Report and the Eyes on Methane platform, while promoting regional exchange on best practices for public participation and access to environmental information.

Judicial Leaders Strengthen Capacity on Climate, Biodiversity and Environmental Justice

UNEP co-organized the Regional Seminar for Judges and Justice Sector Practitioners from Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City with IUCN, the Supreme Court of Panama, and the Instituto Interamericano de Justicia y Sostenibilidad (IIJS) (23–24 June). The seminar brought together 91 judicial actors, including 67 women, to strengthen knowledge and cooperation on climate change, biodiversity, human rights, and environmental justice. UNEP provided technical presentations, opening remarks, and overall coordination of discussions on emerging judicial standards, advisory opinions on climate change, and regional approaches to environmental governance.

The event demonstrated a model that can be replicated across the region, while the participation of judges from multiple countries enriched peer learning and strengthened regional judicial cooperation.

Global and Regional Dialogues Advance Environmental Justice and Climate Justice

At the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in Bangkok (24–25 April), convened with Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) and other partners, UNEP delivered the opening keynote and contributed thought leadership on environmental rule of law and access to justice. The conference connected environmental lawyers, scientists, academics, activists, and community advocates from across regions to exchange legal strategies and strengthen collaboration.

UNEP also contributed to a regional roundtable in Bangkok on the impacts of climate change on trafficking in persons (12 May), highlighting links between climate justice, human rights, and environmental governance.

Building on this work, UNEP co-organized the Pacific Climate Justice and Sea Level Rise Week in Suva, Fiji (25–28 May), alongside the Government of Vanuatu, the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), SPREP, OHCHR, ESCAP, and other partners. The event brought together around 120 participants from across the Pacific to examine how the 2025 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change can support regional climate action, implementation of the Declaration on the Continuity of Statehood and the Protection of Persons, preparation for UNFCCC COP31, and ongoing efforts to advance the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

These engagements advanced dialogue on environmental justice, climate justice and environmental rule of law, and strengthened cooperation among legal practitioners, policymakers, and regional institutions.

E. Enabling Subprogrammes

i. Finance and economic transformations

Unlocking Sustainable Finance for Climate, Nature and Circular Economy

UNEP FI is supporting public and private institutions in planning for new opportunities in climate finance: the launching of the Climate Pathways Navigator in Geneva (1 April) provides additional support to financial institutions to access climate scenario data for science-based target setting and strategic planning.

Furthermore, UNEP FI supported financial institutions in operationalizing clean energy finance commitments in hard-to-abate sectors, including shipping, aviation and cement, where data gaps and methodological complexity continue to slow progress. The Guidance for Climate Target Setting for Banks was issued for banks to support policy measures accelerating clean energy financing opportunities in road transport and aviation.

Likewise, upon the request of policymakers in efforts to strengthen enabling policy frameworks, the Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance (NZAOA) supported a joint investor statement led by the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), endorsed by 46 signatories representing over EUR 12 trillion in assets, calling for stable and predictable policy frameworks that strengthen long-term investment certainty and support clean energy investment opportunities (10 June), in Geneva.

UNEP FI also launched the Bank Indicator Repository, (11 May) providing financial institutions with a specific indicator framework to support credible sustainability reporting and alignment with international standards. The database compiles sustainability and impact management indicators developed specifically for the banking sector, covering climate change, nature and biodiversity, circular economy, gender, human rights, financial health and financial inclusion.

Advancing Economic and Fiscal Policies for Just Transitions

Through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), UNEP continues to support countries to inform sustainable fiscal and economic reforms. In South Africa, UNEP, in partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) developed an analysis of the coal sector to strengthen the evidence base for social dialogue on the country's new opportunities for clean energy (14 April).

In Brazil, UNEP, together with the Ministry of Finance, ILO and UNITAR, strengthened the capacity of public-sector economists to apply macroeconomic models that integrate climate and environmental risks into fiscal and budget planning (18–19 June). The training addressed gaps in macroeconomic models, which often overlook climate-related fiscal exposure and environmental degradation. This work is building capacities in Brazil to better inform decisions on sustainable bond design, climate-related budget allocations and bioeconomy investments, contributing to the country's ecological transformation.

UNEP supported Morocco to develop its first assessment of fiscal and economic incentives harmful to biodiversity across the agriculture, mining and fisheries sectors (April 2026). It provides a structured evidence base to identify and prioritize reforms to subsidies and fiscal measures that undermine biodiversity objectives – contributing to Target 18 of the KMGBF.

Global and Regional Action to Accelerate transitions to Circular Economies

The Global Alliance for Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) continues to strengthen cooperation on circular economy. Its Working-Level Meeting was held in Berlin (11 June), alongside the 35th International Resource Panel meeting. Participants discussed responses to the Strategic Review conducted for the IRP, focusing on IRP's positioning, governance, strategy, theory of change, and resource mobilization. GACERE members benefited from dialogues with the IRP and strengthened cooperation.

Through the Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP advanced regional circular economy policies with the launch of Circular by Nature: A Policy Agenda for Bio-Based Materials in a Circular Economy (10 June), and related working group supporting countries to integrate bio-based value chains into circular economy strategies.

As part of the Regional Ecological Summit 2026, UNEP co-organized the session "Scaling Up Circularity: Regional Cooperation to Close the Loop" (22 April) in Astana. The event facilitated regional dialogue and collaboration among Ministers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, together with other countries and international partners, private sector and other stakeholders. A key outcome of the session was the Ministerial endorsement of the Framework for Partnership on Circular Economy in Central Asia, the first step towards a regional alliance to promote cooperation and solutions for a circular economy across the Central Asian region.

Better Consumer Information: Advancing Harmonized Ecolabels to Digital Product Information systems

Growing demand for healthy and sustainable products is undermined by widespread greenwashing, with 53 per cent of sustainability claims providing vague or misleading information, eroding consumer trust. To address this challenge, UNEP supports credible and transparent product sustainability information to accelerate the implementation of circular economy and sustainable consumption.

In Ecuador (26 May) and Costa Rica (23 June), the launch of the Sello Ambiental de América (SAA) ecolabelling scheme marked the transition from policy design to implementation, enabling certification of products meeting regionally agreed environmental and social criteria. This strengthened consumer confidence, promoted sustainable trade and expanded market opportunities for credible sustainable products. Regional sustainability criteria for coffee and recycled plastic products are being finalized, providing a foundation for additional certified product categories.

Likewise, UNEP, through the Digitalization for Circular Economy (D4CE), is advancing the development of a Global Digital Product Information System (DPIS) Framework to support circularity, sustainability and product transparency. In Malabo, Equatorial Guinea (19–22 May) the 16th Symposium on ICTs, Environment, Climate Change and Circular Economy served as the African regional consultation for the global framework and resulted in the Malabo Declaration, reinforcing commitments to sustainable digital transformation, circular economy and interoperable digital product systems. In Asia, engagement through UN ESCAP Paperless Trade Week, held in Bangkok (8–12 June), strengthened perspectives on interoperability, governance and sustainable trade facilitation.

Cooperation with the retailer sector is expanding, UNEP, through the One Planet Network, launched the Retail4Impact Chinese Taskforce (13 May), in Beijing. It convenes 11 organizations to collaborate on standards development, certification support, knowledge sharing and industry advocacy. A key message among participating organizations is that the circular transformation of China's retail sector requires coordinated action across retailers, standard-setting bodies, certification actors, civil society and industry associations.

Advancing Green Skills and Employability for Youth

Through the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, UNEP, in collaboration with ILO and UNICEF, strengthened engagement with countries across Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the need for greater youth engagement and to strengthen young people's role in driving sustainable development. Two regional dialogues were held, one in Africa and one in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

In cooperation with the LAC Circular Economy Coalition, UNEP organized an online policy dialogue, "Accelerating the Green Transition through skills and innovation" (6 May), which examined the role of youth in driving sustainable development and the need for equitable access to education, training and employment.

In Africa, a regional policy dialogue on "Building Green Skills for Africa's youth Pathways to a Nature-positive and Sustainable Future" (23 June) engaged participants from 21 countries, strengthening capacities to integrate youth perspectives into green skills and employment policies, and generating recommendations for sustainable youth employment.

ii. Digital Transformations

UNEP Advances Global Dialogue on Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Environmental Sustainability

UNEP strengthened international cooperation on the environmental sustainability of artificial intelligence (AI) through a series of high-level consultations and global policy engagements supporting implementation of the UNEA-7 Resolution on the Environmental Sustainability of Artificial Intelligence Systems. Between April and June 2026, UNEP convened and contributed to consultations with Member States, academia, industry, civil society and international partners to advance methodologies for assessing the environmental impacts of AI, address knowledge and data gaps, and promote the integration of environmental sustainability into AI governance frameworks.

UNEP participated in consultations with UNEP FI Banking Board workstream on the environmental footprint of data centres (9 April), convened an expert consultation during the Paris Conference on AI & Digital Ethics (11-12 June), and hosted a global consultation with Member State-nominated experts to inform the Global AI Dialogue process (17 June). UNEP also participated in the South Korea Global AI Hub Initiative launch with nine international organisations, contributing to international dialogue on inclusive, human-centred and sustainable AI and strengthening collaboration on the application of AI to address shared global challenges, including climate change and environmental sustainability. In addition, UNEP contributed to discussions at the Sovereign AI Summit in Egypt and the KeSEBAE – Kenya Society of Environmental, Biological and Agricultural Engineers Conference.

Environmental Intelligence and Digital Cooperation through Global Forums

UNEP continued to strengthen international collaboration on environmental intelligence, digital transformation and geospatial information through strategic global and high-level knowledge exchange. UNEP contributed technical expertise at the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) dialogue Data for a Sustainable Future in Riyadh (5 June), highlighting international best practices in environmental statistics, data integration and partnerships to strengthen environmental data systems.

UNEP also shared its expertise during the GEO Symposium in Geneva at the Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), and the webinar Geospatial Information for Climate, Environment and Disaster Resilience: Advancing Integrated Action for Sustainable Development (23-24 June). Through these engagements, UNEP promoted the role of digital technologies, environmental data and geospatial information in supporting evidence-based decision-making, climate resilience and sustainable development while strengthening partnerships with Member States and the broader international community.

Application of AI for Environmental Knowledge Management

UNEP continued to promote EnvironmentGPT showcasing its application as a trusted AI-powered platform for environmental knowledge management. Built on UNEP's authoritative environmental knowledge base, EnvironmentGPT enables policymakers, researchers and practitioners to access reliable, evidence-based environmental information, helping address misinformation while supporting informed decision-making. UNEP presented EnvironmentGPT at the Sustainability Research and Innovation (SRI2026) Africa Regional Conference (16 April) and the UN 2.0 Digital and Data Solutions Expo (11 May), demonstrating how trusted generative AI can improve access to environmental knowledge and strengthen evidence-based environmental action.

These engagements increased awareness of EnvironmentGPT across the United Nations system and the wider sustainability community.

Digital Innovation for Environmental Assessment

UNEP continued to demonstrate the application of digital technologies to strengthen environmental assessment and evidence generation through the publication of Sand and Sustainability: An Essential Resource for Nature and Development. Published in April 2026, the report applies geospatial and AI-based analysis through a digital tool developed by UNEP/GRID to generate environmental insights on sand resources. The publication illustrates how digital technologies can enhance environmental monitoring, strengthen scientific evidence and support informed decision-making on sustainable natural resource management.

Environmental Intelligence Through the World Environment Situation Room

On 9 June, UNEP launched Version 1 of the Environmental Policy Tracker (EPT), the first operational use case of the World Environment Situation Room (WESR). UNEP led the overall coordination and technical implementation of the platform, including defining system requirements, designing the system architecture and overseeing deployment in accordance with organizational ICT standards. The Environmental Policy Tracker is now operational through WESR, providing enhanced access to environmental policy information.

F. Cross-cutting Issues

i. Gender

Gender Marker Reporting on Project Documents Reviewed

During the reporting period, UNEP reviewed 21 project documents, all of which were found in line with UNEP's Gender Marker System. Concrete actions, dedicated resources, and measurable indicators are embedded in the project's design and results framework. This reflects proactive gender mainstreaming within the project's theory of change and compliance with UNEP's Programme Manual requirements for gender, rather than treating gender as an add-on.

UNEP Support Expands Financing for Women-Led Climate Enterprises in South Asia

UNEP supported the EmPower II Programme with the Massive Earth Foundation to strengthen investment readiness and access to finance for women-led businesses operating in climate-affected sectors across South Asia, via the Project SAFFAL (South Asia Finance Facility for Acceleration and Leverage) initiative (10 May). The programme trained more than 150 women-led SMEs from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka on business development and sustainability, while mobilizing US$6 million from private sector and philanthropic partners to support climate-focused enterprises.

The initiative also highlighted a persistent financing gap, as many available funding products exceed US$1 million, while most women-led climate SMEs require between US$100,000 and US$1 million to scale their businesses. To address this challenge, the SAFFAL facility is being developed to blend different financing sources and create financial products better matched to the needs of women-led climate enterprises.

Regional Assessment Highlights Gender Gaps in Environmental Policymaking across Latin America and the Caribbean

UNEP's Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, serving as Technical Secretariat of the Regional Working Group on Gender and the Environment, supported the publication of Gender and Environmental Gaps in Latin America and the Caribbean (13 June), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala.

The publication assesses environmental and gender equality policy frameworks across the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, providing a regional evidence base on progress in integrating gender considerations into environmental governance. The analysis highlights advances made across the region while identifying significant gaps and differences in the scope and ambition of existing policies.

Peer-reviewed by gender experts from the Regional Working Group, the publication supports governments and stakeholders in strengthening gender-responsive environmental policymaking and advancing more inclusive environmental governance across the region.

UNEP Promotes Women's Participation and Leadership in Kenya's E-mobility Transition

UNEP supported efforts to advance gender inclusion in sustainable transport by convening a Women in E-Mobility Networking Session in Nairobi (4 June) under the E-Mobility as a Driver for Change initiative. The session brought together more than 120 women working across Kenya's e-mobility ecosystem, including engineers, technicians, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers, operators, and industry leaders. The event provided a platform for women to connect, share experiences, and strengthen professional networks in a sector where women remain underrepresented. Discussions highlighted both emerging

opportunities in electric mobility and persistent barriers to participation, including limited access to technical training, mentorship, finance, and professional networks.

Complementing these efforts, UNEP and the Flone Initiative co-hosted a Women in Transport Networking Session to further support women's engagement and leadership across the broader mobility sector. The events increased the visibility of women driving innovation in sustainable transport and reinforced the importance of targeted networking, mentorship, and capacity-building initiatives to support a more inclusive and equitable transition to e-mobility.

ii. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

UNEP Strengthens Capacity to Manage Environmental and Social Risks in Project Implementation

UNEP continued to support implementation of its Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF). As part of this work, UNEP organized a session on monitoring environmental and social risks during project implementation. The session included sharing practical experiences, highlighting good practices, lessons learned, and challenges encountered in the application of environmental and social safeguards. These insights provided useful examples that can be adapted across other UNEP projects. The session brought together 78 participants and facilitated discussions on effective approaches to managing environmental and social risks throughout the project cycle.

Risk Screening Strengthens Safeguards Performance Across UNEP Projects

UNEP reviewed 21 projects and 11 project concepts. Of these, 33 per cent of projects and 45 per cent of concepts were classified as moderate risk. Risk assessments were largely consistent, with 96 per cent of project manager ratings aligning with reviewer assessments. Early identification of environmental and social risks helped strengthen management plans and improve project design.

iv. South-South Cooperation

UNEP continued to strengthen South–South cooperation by promoting knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices, technical collaboration, and peer learning. The following are examples of South-South and triangular cooperation activities over the reporting period.

Through the Brazil–India Watershed Management Project, UNEP supported preparations for Steering Committee meetings, webinars, and engagement with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) World Basin Summit 2026, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (16–19 June). The summit facilitated direct exchange on watershed planning progress, implementation approaches, and early lessons learned, promoting cross-country learning between Brazil and India.

UNEP together with Ambition Loop and Chile's Ministry of the Environment facilitated the Global Textile Ministerial and Industry Summit in Santiago, Chile (15–17 June). The summit focused on sustainable and circular textile value chains and featured key discussions on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), global chemical standards, and second-hand textile markets. Through it UNEP fostered collaboration between Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean on sustainable and circular textile value chains.

G. Institutional learning

i. Challenges and Opportunities:

From Regional Office for Africa: The ARFSD-12 and the 38th Bureau Meeting of AMCEN demonstrated strong political commitment by Member States to advancing coherent regional positions on sustainable development and environmental priorities, with opportunities to strengthen collaboration among governments, regional institutions and UN partners. Persistent financing constraints, increasing climate impacts and competing development priorities remain significant challenges. UNEP will continue supporting science-policy dialogue, regional coordination and evidence-based decision-making to advance implementation of agreed regional priorities and strengthen Africa's voice in global environmental and sustainable development processes.

National complementary policy frameworks (e.g. Malawi Vision 2063 linked to SDGs, the NDCs, and Malawi Energy Compact) can create opportunities to mobilize investment, strengthen environmental governance, support renewable energy development, and advance climate resilience and sustainable economic growth. That said, limited institutional capacity, weak coordination across sectors, financing constraints, data gaps, and enforcement limitations remain challenges. UNEP has noted the importance of early engagement with senior decision-makers, broad stakeholder participation, and cross-sector collaboration to translate policy recommendations into effective implementation.

From Regional Office for Asia Pacific: Air pollution remains one of Cambodia's most pressing environmental and public health challenges. Around 16 million people face exposure to elevated levels of PM2.5, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and other pollutants. These emissions mainly come from expanding industrial activity, transport, agricultural burning, and residential energy use. UNEP estimates that inaction could cost Cambodia approximately US$800 million by 2030 due to increased mortality and morbidity.

To address these challenges, UNEP is introducing and adapting two interoperable digital systems, the Clean Air Policy Support System (CAPSS) and the Stack Emission Management System (SEMS), building on their successful application in the Republic of Korea. Through four interconnected outcome areas, including policy and regulatory frameworks, digital system development, institutional capacity-building, and monitoring and sustainability, UNEP will support the establishment of Cambodia's first national emissions inventory system. This will enable Cambodia to contribute more effectively to regional and international climate and clean air commitments. This US$5 million, 36-month project strengthens UNEP's ability to support national air quality roadmaps, legislative frameworks, and institutional capacity across Cambodia and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

From Regional Office for West Asia: Intense bouts of confrontation, interspersed by ceasefires, have created continued uncertainty across West Asia. The conflict – inviolving Iran and the United States - expanded into a broader regional crisis involving multiple state and non-state actors, affecting countries such as Lebanon and Israel. It disrupted energy markets, increased oil price volatility, strained supply chains, and raised the risk of higher food prices. Environmental meetings and conferences were postponed or cancelled.

In response, the regional office shifted to remote operations for an extended period. Staff in high-risk areas relocated, and activities moved to virtual formats. Despite limited in-country presence and reduced direct technical support, operations continued, and programme delivery remained on track due to staff commitment and sustained stakeholder engagement.

From climate action: Peer-to-peer exchanges between countries that have already completed their first Biennial Transparency Reports are proving to be particularly effective to help other countries prepare for Technical Expert Reviews and identify solutions to common implementation challenges.

UNEP's participation in the World Urban Forum 13 in Baku, Azerbaijan, reaffirmed that buildings offer one of the biggest opportunities to cut emissions. Key challenges lie in implementation, especially scaling finance and capacity, as sustainable housing requires integrated urban planning and governance. Rapid urbanization demands inclusive, climate-resilient development, and in that field, UNEP's expertise on nature-based solutions is well positioned to contribute to essential net-zero, nature-positive urban infrastructure.

From science-policy: The increasing complexity of emerging environmental issues, together with persistent data gaps and uneven national capacities, continues to present challenges for translating science into policy and implementation. Maintaining the quality and timeliness of environmental data for SDG reporting, addressing misinformation surrounding emerging technologies such as SRM, and sustaining momentum for GEO-7 outreach beyond its launch require continued coordination, technical expertise, and strategic partnerships.

Growing demand from Member States for credible, policy-relevant environmental evidence presents an opportunity for UNEP to further strengthen its science–policy leadership. Continued engagement on SDG monitoring, emerging issues such as solar radiation modification, and the dissemination of GEO-7 findings provides a strong platform to enhance evidence-informed decision-making, expand partnerships with scientific and policy institutions, and support the localization of global environmental assessments through national and regional processes. UNEP's future efforts could include contributing to the Secretary-General's SDG reporting process, publishing the Solar Radiation Modification Working Paper to provide an authoritative evidence base on an emerging policy issue, expanding GEO-7 dissemination through regional events, multilingual translations and educational initiatives, and supporting the application of the GEO methodology in national State of the Environment processes to promote evidence-based environmental governance.

From digital transformations: There is strong interest demonstrated by different groups in the implementation of the UNEA-7 Resolution on the Environmental Sustainability of AI Systems. This presents an opportunity for UNEP to further strengthen the resolution through continued consultations and the systematic collection of technical and policy inputs.

Resource constraints remain a challenge to sustaining and scaling the WESR beyond its initial deployment, including the integration of additional use cases, data and functionalities needed to maximize its value as UNEP's environmental intelligence platform.

From finance and economic transformations: Continued efforts are needed to strengthen analytical capacity, improve the availability and use of evidence for decision-making, and enhance policy coherence across finance, economic, environmental and sectoral institutions. Advancing consistent sustainability information, interoperable systems and inclusive skills development remains essential to accelerate implementation while responding to national priorities. Clear climate and nature transition pathways across key jurisdictions and sectors are also needed to enable private entities to align and benchmark their transition plans against Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

Country-level experiences continue to demonstrate the catalytic role of UNEP's technical assistance in generating demand for follow-on support. In Brazil, support for macroeconomic modelling has strengthened government interest in evidence-based policy analysis, while in India, work on ecolabelling has created demand for continued technical assistance. Together with growing regional collaboration and demand for practical policy guidance, analytical tools and capacity development, these experiences provide opportunities to strengthen enabling policy environments, mobilize public and private finance, promote credible sustainability information, expand green skills, and scale partnerships and knowledge exchange in support of sustainable development.

ii. Institutional learning:

The reporting period demonstrates that UNEP is most effective when it works in partnership - with governments, research institutions and regional organizations - and through integrated approaches that connect biodiversity, land, ocean, and health agendas.

South–South cooperation continues to be a highly effective mechanism for sharing practical solutions, accelerating learning and fostering innovation. Cross-country learning can strengthen policy development, ecosystem restoration, private sector engagement and evidence-based decision-making. Multi-stakeholder platforms, expert networks and technical trainings are critical for building capacity and promoting uptake of sustainable approaches.

This reporting period also reaffirmed the importance of providing accessible, transparent and scientifically robust evidence to support policy-making, e.g. the World Database on Protected and Conserved Areas (WDPA) and the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WDOECM).

Early engagement with Member States, regional partners and technical experts, combined with tailored communication products such as translations, regional outreach events and educational initiatives, significantly enhances the reach, credibility and policy uptake of UNEP's scientific outputs.

UNEP has noted also that the advancement of digital transformation depends on sustained collaboration with Member States, technical experts and partners to ensure that digital solutions are informed by diverse expertise and aligned with evolving environmental priorities. UNEP will continue stakeholder consultations, broaden technical engagement through a call for expert nominations to support implementation of the UNEA-7 Resolution on AI and incorporate stakeholder feedback into the development and implementation of digital initiatives.

Effective, interoperable policy and regulatory frameworks are needed, and sub-regional/country-driven approaches, supported by strong partnerships and evidence-based analysis, are essential for advancing finance and economic transformations. Regional cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement continue facilitating knowledge exchange, strengthening policy coherence and supporting the adaptation of good practices in national contexts. Combining policy advice with practical tools, technical assistance and capacity development helps strengthen implementation and enables countries and private sector stakeholders to integrate sustainability considerations into economic planning, financial decision-making, sustainable consumption and production, and circular economy strategies. Enabling market conditions that align economic incentives and provide regulatory certainty is critical to move from incremental action to scale.

3 Resources and Management Issues

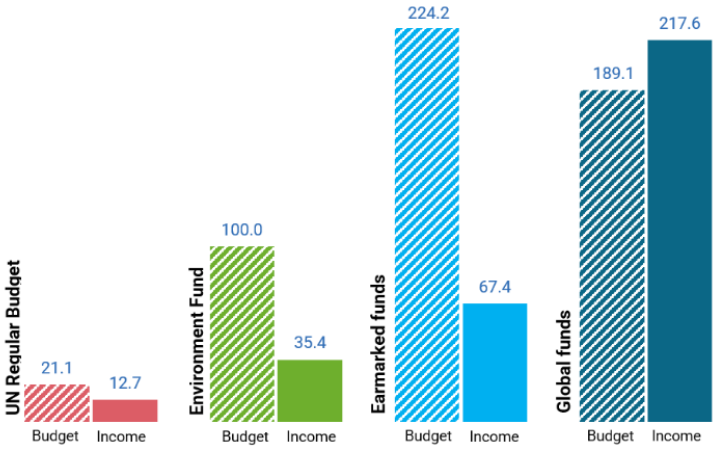
A. Financial Resources

i. Financial Update as of 30 June 2026

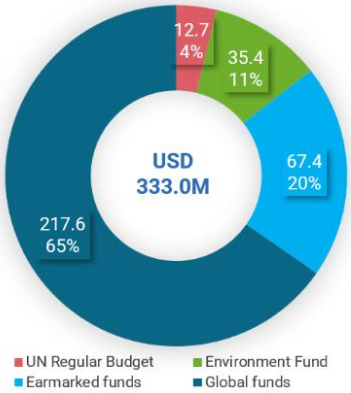
a. Overview of income[4]

The UN Regular Budget and the Environment Fund provide UNEP's core funding, enabling the organization to respond to the crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification and pollution and waste, and to implement the PoW approved by Member States. As of 30 June 2026, core funding represented 14 per cent of UNEP's total income, while Earmarked and Global Funds accounted for 86 per cent. Income from Earmarked and Global Funds includes multi-year elements, such as unspent balances carried forward from previous years and contributions received for expenditures in future years.

Graph 1: Annual budget vs income (in million $) from January– June 2026



Graph 2: Income per source of funding (in million $) from January - June 2026



[4] The figures do not include conventions and protocols administered by UNEP. Per the United Nations Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS), our financial and administrative management platform, Umoja, does not allow a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income. The financial figures presented in this report reflect income based on actual pledges and cash receipts for programme performance reporting purposes and may therefore differ from figures prepared in accordance with IPSAS accrual accounting.

b. Core funding

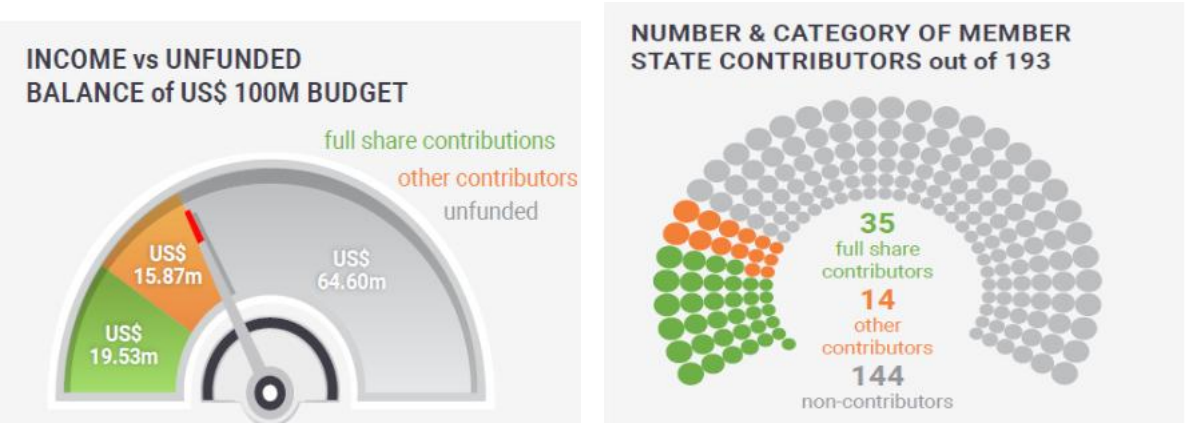
(i) United Nations regular budget

The United Nations Regular Budget provides core resources to UNEP in support of fundamental programme activities. Owing to liquidity constraints, the allotment for 2026 so far is US$ 12.7 million (or 60 per cent) against an approved budget of US$ 21.1 million. UNEP, in consultation with the United Nations Headquarters, continues to manage the expenditures within the authorized allocation and in accordance with the remainder allocation plan and other guidance from the Office of the United Nations Controller.

(ii) The Environment Fund

The Environment Fund is UNEP's financial backbone for results-focused and balanced programme delivery, supported by robust oversight. As of 30 June 2026, Environment Fund income amounted to US$ 35.4 million, representing 35 per cent of the approved 2026 Environment Fund budget of US$ 100 million. These contributions were received from 49 Member States, representing 25 per cent of the 193 Member States. Of these, 35 Member States (71 per cent) contributed their full share in accordance with the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC). 46 Member States had paid their pledges as of 30 June 2026.

Graph 3: Status of the Environment Fund in 2026 (as of 30 June 2026)



UNEP appreciates all contributors, with special thanks to the 35 Member States that have provided their full share (Table 1), as well as to the top 15 Member State contributors (Table 2) during the period from 1 January to 30 June 2026, which together accounted for 96 per cent of Environment Fund income. Furthermore, UNEP welcomes the increased stability and predictability provided by multi-year agreements and pledges from Belgium and Canada, which amounted to a total of US$ 6.8 million, representing 19 per cent of the Environment Fund income as of 30 June 2026.

Table 1: Full share contributors to the Environment Fund in 2026 (as of 30 June 2026)*

CONTRIBUTIONS ABOVE AND EQUAL TO FULL SHARE				
Albania	Cambodia	Georgia	Liechtenstein	Oman
Armenia	Dominican Republic	Iceland	Lithuania	Panama
Bahamas (The)	Egypt	Ireland	Luxembourg	Peru
Barbados	El Salvador	Jamaica	Malta	Philippines
Belgium*	Eritrea	Jordan	Mauritius	Slovenia
Botswana	Eswatini	Kiribati	Micronesia (FSO)	Sweden
Burkina Faso	France	Latvia	Montenegro	Tajikistan

Table 2: Top 15 contributors to the Environment Fund in 2026 (as of 30 June 2026)

Member State	US$(millions)
France	7.6
Sweden	5.1
Belgium*	4.6
Germany	4.0
Switzerland	3.4
Norway	3.0
Canada	2.2
Japan	1.3
Australia	1.0
Ireland	0.6
Republic of Korea	0.6
Luxembourg	0.3
Peru	0.2
Philippines	0.2
Kuwait	0.2

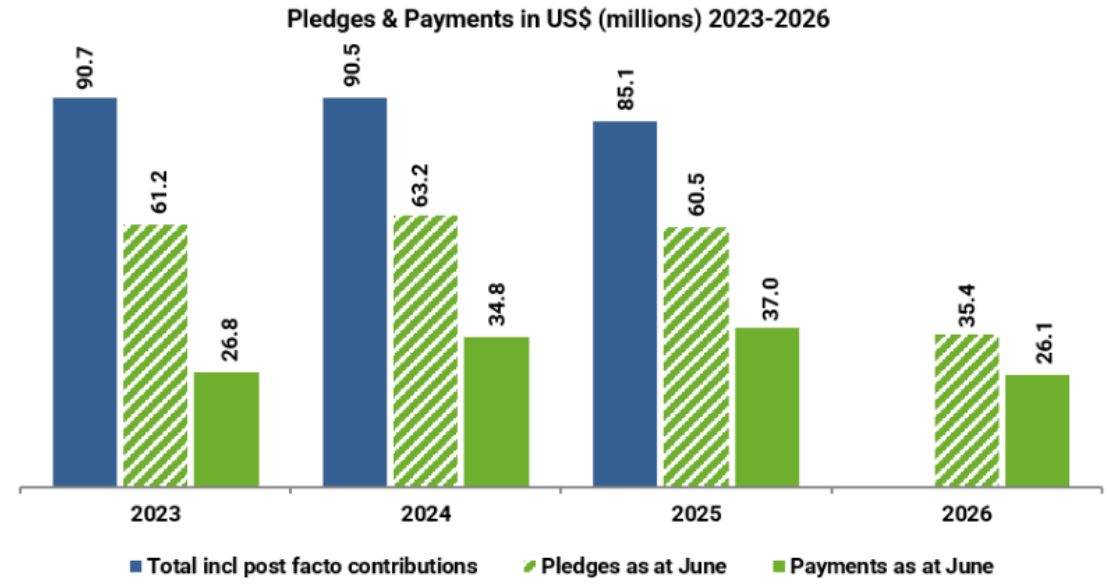
* Amounts are based on pledges and will be confirmed upon payment, considering any exchange rate fluctuations.

Comparison with previous years

While the value of early contributions declined in the first half of 2026 (Graph 4), the number of Member States pledging contributions as of June 2026 increased by 36 per cent compared with same time in 2023 (Graph 5), signaling broader engagement and a growing level of commitment.

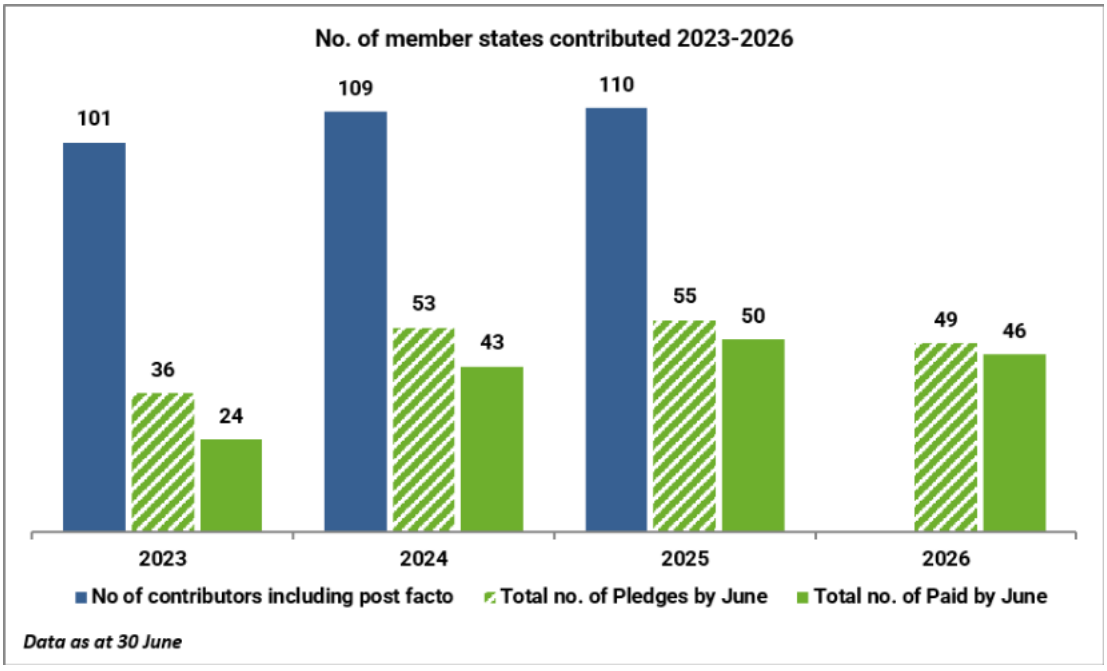
Early contributions remain vital to strengthening funding predictability and stability, thereby enabling more efficient and effective programme delivery. Member States are therefore strongly encouraged to contribute to the Environment Fund as early as possible each year.

Graph 4: Pledges and payments to the Environment Fund 2023-2026



Data as at 30 June

Graph 5: Number of contributors to the environment fund 2023-2026



c. Earmarked contributions

(i) Earmarked funds

As of 30 June 2026, earmarked contributions amounted to US$ 67.4 million, representing 30 per cent of the 2026 PoW budgeted income including multi-year agreements. All funds received were tightly earmarked dedicated to specific programmes or projects.

To enhance funding flexibility and maximize programmatic effectiveness, UNEP encourages Member States to consider softening their earmarked support, particularly through contributions to the Planetary Funds.

Table 3: Top 15 contributors of earmarked funds in 2026 (as of 30 June 2026)

Funding Partner	US$(millions)
UNEP Finance Initiative*	14.72
European Commission	10.81
UN Agencies**	10.78
Foundations/NGOs	9.24
Japan	6.13
The Republic of Korea	5.08
United Kingdom	3.81
Germany	2.89
Serbia	1.09
Netherlands	0.47
Norway	0.46
Canada	0.32
Denmark	0.27
Iceland	0.23
Belgium	0.21

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

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

(ii) Global funds

The funds provided by the GEF and the GCF are earmarked for specific programmes and projects. By the end of June 2026, GEF had received US$ 217.6 million, while no income had yet been received from the GCF. The income received was 115 per cent of the annual PoW budgeted income for the year 2026 including multi-year agreements. The growing contribution of Global Funds has significantly expanded UNEP's delivery capacity. At the same time, as noted by the Joint Inspection Unit[2], a sustainable financing model requires a healthy balance between earmarked project funding and flexible core resources, ensuring UNEP retains the agility to respond to emerging priorities identified by Member States. Achieving this balance requires not only continued resource mobilization efforts by UNEP, but also the support of Member States and donors through increased contributions to the Environment Fund and other flexible financing mechanisms.

ii. Status of allocations and expenditures as of 30 June 2026

a. Environment fund

UNEA-7 approved the 2026-2027 PoW budget of US$ 200 million for the Environment Fund (US$100 million for 2026). Based on the current funding landscape, the 2026 Environment Fund allocation amounts to US$70 million. As of 30 June 2026, total expenditures stood at US$ 29.4 million or 42 per cent of the authorized allocation.

2026 Core Budgets - Programme of Work Budget as of 30 June 2026				
Environment Fund (EF)				
	Functional Area Name	**Budget**	**Allotment**	**Expenditure**
A	Policymaking organs	2,681,500	2,051,574	864,110
B	Executive direction & management	6,346,500	4,724,737	1,952,777
	Subtotal A + B	**9,028,000**	**6,776,311**	**2,816,887**
C	**Programme of work**			
1.	Climate action	10,458,000	7,217,798	2,899,010
2.	Digital transformations	7,955,500	5,817,726	1,926,460
3.	Nature action	12,961,000	9,080,979	4,100,516
4.	Environmental law and governance	15,642,500	10,391,765	5,483,814
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	10,815,500	7,225,927	2,519,807
6.	Finance and economic transformations	11,173,000	6,984,464	2,900,346
7.	Science-policy	8,849,000	6,491,980	3,252,842
	Subtotal C	**77,854,500**	**53,210,639**	**23,082,795**
D	**Fund programme reserve**	**4,000,000**	**3,000,000**	**862,681**
E	**Programme support**	**9,117,500**	**7,013,050**	**2,669,743**
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		**100,000,000**	**70,000,000**	**29,432,106**

b. Programme Support Costs

Programme support costs (PSC) are generated through the implementation of extrabudgetary projects and are used to finance essential administrative and operational support functions. As per existing policy, the 2026 PSC allocation of US$ 29.8 million is based on actual PSC income of 2025. As of 30 June 2026, PSC expenditures stood at US$ 8.6 million, representing 29 per cent of the allotment.

The 2026 PSC allotment of US$ 29.8 million is based on actual PSC income in 2025, which exceeded budget estimates due to higher-than-anticipated programme expenditures that generated additional PSC revenue.

2026 Core Budgets - Programme of Work Budget as of 30 June 2026			
Programme Support Cost (PSC)			
Funding Source	**Budget**	**Allotment**	**Expenditures**
Programme Support Cost (PSC)	**22,400,000**	**29,847,978**	**8,559,667**

c. Regular budget

As of 30 June 2026, the allotment of Regular Budget received from UNHQ stood at $12.6 million or 60 per cent of the General Assembly approved budget of US$ 21.1 million. Additional allotments are expected to be received, pending the liquidity situation of the UN Secretariat as a whole. The Regular Budget expenditure amounted to US$ 8.3 million as of 30 June, representing 66 per cent of the received allotment so far.

2026 Core Budgets - Programme of Work Budget as of 30 June 2026				
Regular Budget				
	Functional Area Name	Budget (GA approved)	Allotment	Expenditure
A	Policymaking organs	8,300	5,000	-
B.1	Executive direction & management	2,928,900	2,056,023	1,387,707
B.2	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects on Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR)	1,305,800	783,479	280,639
	Subtotal A + B	**4,243,000**	**2,844,502**	**1,668,346**
C	**Programme of work**			
1.	Climate action	1,588,900	906,701	734,730
2.	Digital transformations	1,454,600	851,621	602,008
3.	Nature action	2,107,800	1,215,892	620,929
4.	Environmental law and governance	3,621,700	2,356,058	1,379,654
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	2,112,000	1,143,702	786,348
6.	Finance and economic transformations	1,663,800	962,382	730,550
7.	Science-policy	3,073,100	1,639,221	1,194,798
	Subtotal C	**15,621,900**	**9,075,577**	**6,049,018**
D	Fund programme reserve	-	-	-
E	Programme support	1,225,800	734,321	571,556
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		**21,090,700**	**12,654,400**	**8,288,920**

d. Earmarked and Global Funds

Expenditures of earmarked and Global Funds comprise actual funds spent during 2026, including commitments pertaining to future years and expenses covered using unspent funds from previous budgets. The unspent budget balances of previous periods are not included in the current budget period because they are reported in the budgets of those respective years. The budget for earmarked contributions and global funds is based on estimates of contributions and planned activities in support of the approved PoW, while the income received is multi-year in nature, hence the variance between the estimated budget, the income received, and the expenditures incurred on an annual basis as displayed in the table.

Earmarked and Global Funds (US$)			
	Functional Area	Budget	Expenditure
A	Policymaking organs	150,000	-
B	Executive direction & management	650,000	161,265
	Subtotal A + B	**800,000**	**161,265**
C	**Programme of work**		
1.	Climate action	177,100,000	260,178,222
2.	Digital transformations	700,000	181,225
3.	Nature action	88,850,000	79,478,376
4.	Environmental law and governance	28,700,000	16,891,527
5.	Chemicals and pollution action	80,550,000	50,252,266
6.	Finance and economic transformations	25,400,000	23,403,852
7.	Science-policy	5,350,000	1,780,992

	Subtotal C	**406,650,000**	**432,166,459**
D	**Fund programme reserve**	-	-
E	**Programme support**	5,800,000	276,710
Total (A+B+C+D+E)		**413,250,000**	**432,604,434**

e. Planetary funds

The three Planetary Funds are designed to support UNEP in delivering the strategic objectives of its MTS 2026–2029 and PoW 2026–2027 and beyond. The Funds focus on addressing the global environmental challenges and crises through the thematic areas of Climate Stability, Living in Harmony with Nature, and Towards a Pollution-Free Planet.

The proposed authorization is aligned with the funding received for the Funds. The recommended allocations are developed based on inputs from the Subprogramme Coordinators with engagement and endorsement of the respective subprogramme Directors, reviewed and endorsed by the Budget Steering Committee, and approved by the Executive Director. Their implementation status is closely monitored to ensure proper and maximum utilization of the allocated resources.

Status of allocations and expenditures (US$) of the Planetary Funds as of 30 June 2026

	Thematic Area	Authorized budget	Expenditure	Utilization %
A	Climate	12,625,585	12,497,901	99%
B	Nature	8,035,581	7,805,281	97%
C	Pollution	8,807,150	8,394,504	95%
	Total A+B+C	**29,468,316**	**28,697,686**	**97%**

iii. Report on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

UNEP continued to strengthen the governance and management of trust funds and earmarked contributions to ensure efficient, transparent and accountable stewardship of voluntary contributions resources. During the reporting period, efforts focused on improving oversight of funding arrangements, strengthening compliance with United Nations financial regulations and rules, and enhancing the effectiveness of trust fund portfolio management. Progress also continued in the rationalization of the trust fund portfolio. Strengthened measures have been implemented through the issuance by the United Nations Controller of a clear definition of inactive trust funds and a systematic process for their periodic identification and review. This has enhanced oversight of the trust fund portfolio, facilitating the timely review and closure of inactive trust funds, where appropriate, following donor consultations and reconciliation processes.

UNEP further strengthened internal review processes for new funding arrangements to ensure that trust funds are established only when justified by programmatic and operational requirements and in line with the principle of full cost recovery. This approach supports effective fiduciary management while helping to avoid the proliferation of funding instruments.

The organization also continued to encourage more flexible funding modalities, including softly earmarked to support balanced implementation of the PoW and enhance responsiveness to emerging priorities.

iv. Resource mobilization strategy

The UNEP Secretariat has been working towards finalizing the updated Resource Mobilization Strategy 2026-2029, with a view to strengthening Member State engagement, broadening the funding base and enhancing the visibility of UNEP's results and funding partnerships. The Strategy will also support ongoing efforts to articulate UNEP's value proposition, including its impact, value for money and operational efficiency, in support of the MTS 2026–2029 and related PoW. Following the Secretariat briefing to the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 11 June 2026 on the draft Strategy and the written feedback received from Member States, the Secretariat aims to issue the final Strategy prior to the thirteenth annual subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

B. Human Resources

General Overview

As of 30 June 2026, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) employed 1269 staff members (UNEP Secretariat and MEAs), reflecting a decrease of 20 positions from the previous quarter. The workforce is comprised of:

- 785 staff (62 per cent) in the professional and higher categories
- 13 staff (1 per cent) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category
- 471 staff (37 per cent) in the general service category

The Secretariat has 975 staff members, representing 77 per cent of UNEP's total workforce, while the Secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) employ 294 staff, accounting for 23 per cent. This distribution reflects UNEP's governance structure, with the Secretariat handling core organizational and policy functions, and MEA Secretariats operating as separate entities providing support to their Conferences of the Parties. This setup maintains a clear distinction and fosters coordinated support for intergovernmental environmental governance.

i. Senior level staff (UNEP secretariat and MEAs)

At the P-5 level and above, the number of staff increased from 173 in the previous quarter to 174 in the second quarter of 2026.

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Number of Staff (Q1-2026)	1	3	11	49	109	173
Number of Staff (Q2-2026)	1	3	11	48	111	174

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

The Secretariat holds 131 of these positions, while MEAs account for 43 senior roles as of 30 June 2026

	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Secretariat	1	2	7	40	81	131
MEAs		1	4	8	30	43

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

ii. Appointments – P5 and above

In the second quarter of 2026, UNEP filled 3 senior-level positions across its divisions and offices, strengthening its leadership capacity and operational effectiveness. The selected candidates were all internal candidates.

Position Title	Grade	Geographical Group	Duty Station	Internal/ External
Deputy Director	D-1	Latin American and Caribbean Group	Paris	Internal
Senior Programme Management Officer, Deputy Coordinator	P-5	Asia Pacific Group	Athens	Internal
Senior Programme Management Officer	P-5	Eastern European Group	Paris	Internal

iii. Gender distribution

a. Gender distribution: UNEP status (month/year)

As of 30 June 2026, UNEP employed 1269 staff members, with 64 per cent (807) female and 36 per cent (462) male representation across all categories. At the professional and higher levels (P+), women account for 60 per cent (363) of staff, while men represent 40 per cent (224). In the General Service category, female staff make up 72 per cent (339), while male staff account for 28 per cent (132).

Overall, Gender Parity Status												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	Total Staff
Female	1	3	8	28	59	136	157	72	**464**	**4**	**339**	**807**
Male			3	20	52	105	103	38	**321**	**9**	**132**	**462**
Totals	**1**	**3**	**11**	**48**	**111**	**241**	**260**	**110**	**785**	**13**	**471**	**1269**

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

b. UNEP Secretariat

Within the UNEP Secretariat, females occupy 60 per cent (363) of professional and higher-level positions (P+), while males make up 40 per cent (244). The gender distribution in the general service category is 70 per cent - (249) female and 30 per cent (106) male.

UNEP SECRETARIAT												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	5	22	42	108	128	55	**363**	**4**	**249**	**253**
Male			2	18	39	84	76	25	**244**	**9**	**106**	**115**
Total	**1**	**2**	**7**	**40**	**81**	**192**	**204**	**80**	**607**	**13**	**355**	**975**

c. Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Within the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), women make up 57 per cent (101) of staff at the professional and higher levels (P+), while men account for 43 per cent (77) At the General Service level, 78 per cent (90) of GS staff are women while men account for 22 per cent (26).

UNEP MEAs												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female		1	3	6	17	28	29	17	**101**	**0**	**90**	**191**
Male			1	2	13	21	27	13	**77**	**0**	**26**	**103**
Total		**1**	**4**	**8**	**30**	**49**	**56**	**30**	**178**	**0**	**116**	**294**

iv. Geographical representation: Progression over the years

As of 30 June 2026, UNEP staff members represent a range of nationalities, while the organisation remains committed to geographical balance and global representation. The total number of staff has reduced by 20 compared to the previous quarter.

Region	as of 31 March 2026	as of 30 June 2026	Variation
African Group	401	394	-7
Asia Pacific Group	254	252	-2
Eastern European Group	67	66	-1
Latin American and Caribbean Group	135	133	-2
Stateless	1	1	0
United States of America	33	32	-1
Western European and Others Group	398	391	-7
Total	**1289**	**1269**	**-20**

v. Geographical representation of UNEP staff

A breakdown of staff by region within the UNEP Secretariat and MEAs provides further insights into representation status.

Region	UNEP Secretariat	MEA	Total
African Group	347	47	394
Asia Pacific Group	203	49	252
Eastern European Group	49	17	66
Latin American and Caribbean Group	103	30	133
Stateless	0	1	1
United States of America	25	7	32
Western European and Others Group	248	143	391
Total	**975**	**294**	**1269**

vi. Geographical representation at Professional Levels

The table below provides an overview of the regional representation of UNEP staff at the professional level and above as of June 30, 2026.

UNEP regional representation of staff – Professional level											
Regional Distribution	**Professional level and above**								**Total Mar 2026**	**Total June 2026**	**Variation**
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2			
African Group		1	4	4	26	49	49	18	150	151	1
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	13	19	48	63	27	181	174	-7
Eastern European Group				4	14	14	13	10	54	55	1
Latin American & Caribbean Group			2	6	15	21	33	11	90	88	-2
Stateless								1	1	1	0
United States of America				5	5	7	11	1	30	29	-1
Western European & Others Group	1	1	2	16	32	102	91	42	293	287	-6
Total	**1**	**3**	**11**	**48**	**111**	**241**	**260**	**110**	**799**	**785**	**-14**

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

Region	P5 and above in UNEP Secretariat	P5 and above in MEAs	Total
Africa Group	23	12	35
Asia Pacific Group	25	11	36
Eastern European Group	15	3	18
Latin American Caribbean Group	16	7	23
United States of America	8	2	10
Western European & Others Group	44	8	52

vii. Professional level and above geographic distribution trends 2024 to 30 June 2026

The table below displays geographic trends at the professional level and above from 1 January, 2024 to 31 December 2025. In addition to the trends between Q1 (31/03/2026) and Q2 (30/06/2026).

Region	2024	2025	2026 (Q1)	2026 (Q2)	% Variation, 2024 - 2025	% Variation, Q1 2026 to Q2 2026
African Group	156	158	150	151	1%	1%
Asia Pacific Group	173	180	181	174	4%	-4%

Eastern European Group	38	57	54	55	50%	2%
Latin America & Caribbean	82	90	90	88	10%	-2%
Other		1	1	1	0%	0%
USA	40	30	30	29	-25%	-3%
Western European & Others	344	304	293	287	-12%	-2%

viii. Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) in UNEP

The programme currently engages 37 JPOs.

Country of Sponsorship	Female	Male	Total
Germany	7	2	9
Japan	4	2	6
Italy	4	1	5
Republic of Korea	2	2	4
China	3		3
France	2		2
Belgium		1	1
Australia	1		1
Finland	1		1
Norway	1		1
Portugal		1	1
Switzerland		1	1
United Kingdom	1		1
USA	1		1
Total	**27**	**10**	**37**

ix. Funding of staff positions

Secretariat/MEA & Fund	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	GRAND Total
Secretariat	**1**	**2**	**8**	**40**	**85**	**196**	**198**	**78**	**608**	**13**	**354**	**975**
Environment Fund (EF)		1	3	20	39	56	34	7	160	2	101	263
Programme Support Costs (OTA)				1	5	15	10	5	36	1	65	102
Regular Budget (RB)	1	1	3	10	16	25	8		64		7	71
Earmarked Contributions (XB)			2	9	25	100	146	66	348	10	181	539
MEA		**1**	**4**	**9**	**30**	**50**	**54**	**30**	**178**		**116**	**294**
Programme Support Costs (OTA)					3	3	2		8		25	33
Trust Funds (XB)		1	4	9	27	47	52	30	170		91	261
Total	**1**	**3**	**12**	**49**	**115**	**246**	**252**	**108**	**786**	**13**	**470**	**1269**

x. UNEP talent management strategy

During the second quarter of 2026, UNEP continued to implement its talent outreach strategy through five outreach events, comprising three virtual and two in-person engagements. Of these, one event was open to a general audience, while four were targeted towards specific groups. The in-person events focused on candidates from the Africa Group and Persons with Disabilities. The virtual events included an outreach session hosted at the invitation of a Member State from the Western European and Others Group (WEOG); a multilingual UNEP Spotlight careers event conducted in English with a time zone targeting candidates from the GRULAC, EEG and Africa Group (particularly West Africa) regions; and, a career event organized in collaboration with an academic institution from the Africa Group. Collectively, these outreach activities attracted more than 790 participants. These efforts support the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/13 and contribute to enhancing UNEP's visibility as an employer of choice among potential candidates from underrepresented regions.

C. Audits

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

a. Audits completed and under implementation

No audits were completed during the reporting period; however, progress continued in addressing outstanding OIOS recommendations.

The following audits are now considered closed, with all associated recommendations fully implemented:

1. Audit of the UNEP secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
2. Audit of the climate action subprogramme at UNEP.

UNEP has successfully implemented and closed all previously issued audit recommendations, with no outstanding recommendations currently under implementation.

b. Audits in progress

No audits were completed during the reporting period; however, progress continued in addressing outstanding OIOS recommendations.

The following audits are now considered closed, with all associated recommendations fully implemented:

1. Audit of the UNEP secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
2. Audit of the climate action subprogramme at UNEP.

UNEP has successfully implemented and closed all previously issued audit recommendations, with no outstanding recommendations currently under implementation.

c. Audits planned for 2026

1. Audit of management of implementing partners at UNEP has been officially announced,

2. Audit of management of the UNEP subprogramme on chemicals and pollution,
3. Review of cross cutting issues for UNEP secretariats for Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

ii. United Nations board of auditors (BoA)

a. Completed audits

The BoA completed the final audit of UNEP's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2025, covering UNEP Headquarters and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), with audit fieldwork carried out between April and May 2026 at Nairobi Headquarters. Of the 22 prior-year recommendations, 14 were closed during the final audit, leaving 8 recommendations under implementation.

In addition, 17 new recommendations were issued, of which 5 were classified as high priority. The recommendations are distributed across the following areas: Financial and budget management (5), Strategy management (5), Programme and project management (6), Procurement management (1).

Main audit findings: The main, high priority recommendations address opportunities to strengthen data management and improve the consistency and reliability of performance information through the publication of accurate baselines, targets and accomplishments. They also emphasize enhancing senior management awareness of programme budget formulation and its linkage with the PoW, and ensuring that planned results for future budgets are more closely aligned with subprogramme indicators under the strategic cycle. In addition, they highlight the need to improve the consistency between reported information and system records, and to ensure that data, documentation and monitoring information for projects in the UMOJA Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) system are complete, current and systematically maintained.

b. Audits in progress and planned

The interim audit for the year ending 31 December 2026 is scheduled to take place in autumn 2026. Following the conclusion of China’s mandate, Indonesia will assume responsibility for conducting the audit of UNEP on behalf of the BoA.

iii. Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

a. Reviews completed and under implementation

No JIU system-wide reviews have been published during the reporting period.

b. Reviews in progress and planned

Six system-wide reviews initiated in 2025 remain ongoing, covering strategic planning function, recruitment policies and practices, travel arrangements, data governance frameworks, decentralised evaluation function, and emergency response mechanisms. In 2026, additional reviews were launched on adapting to challenges in financing, Three Lines Model and shared services.

Furthermore, one system-wide review on earmarked funding in mandate implementation was launched during the reporting period. Additional reviews are planned on digital transformation later 2026 and the follow-up to JIU recommendations.

iv. Partnerships

UNEP completed Phase 1 of the Partnership Policy Operationalization Simplification. The objective was to move from a risk-averse to a risk-contextualized approach to partnership due diligence, risk management, and oversight, while maintaining fiduciary safeguards and institutional integrity. Key measures included streamlined review procedures with risk thresholds, strengthened accountability throughout the partnership lifecycle through systematic monitoring and ownership of partner performance, integration of a risk-based flagging system, application of mutual recognition of partner assessments across the UN system, and standardized, automated business processes and templates.

Phase 2 will focus on expanding and diversifying UNEP's partner base through targeted outreach, while strengthening implementation through training and information sessions. This phase will also support the consistent application and continuous refinement of the revised procedures to enhance accountability, transparency, and operational flexibility.

D. Evaluations

During the reporting period (April–June 2026):

- **7** independent project evaluations were completed
- **1** Programme evaluation was completed
- **5** management-led project Terminal Reviews were independently validated by the Evaluation Office
- The strategic evaluation of the Finance and Economic Transformation Subprogrammes is ongoing
- **21** project evaluations are currently ongoing (as of 30 June 2026)

a. Completed Independent Terminal Evaluations (TE)

No.	PROGRAMME / PROJECT TITLE	PERFORMANCE RATING	No. REC'S	REPORT LINK
1	UNEP/GEF Project 'Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago, Yemen' (GEF ID 5347)[1]	Moderately Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49516
2	UNEP/GEF Project 'Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the BCH (BCH-III)' (GEF ID: 5688)	Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49607
3	UNEP/GEF Project 'Mainstreaming Conservation of Coastal Wetlands of Chile's South Center Biodiversity Hotspot through Adaptive Management of Coastal Area Ecosystems' (GEF ID 9766)	Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49514
4	UNEP/GEF Project 'Continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention in the Pacific Region' (GEF ID 6978)[2]	Moderately Satisfactory	8	https://wedocs.unep.org/items/35a6e8a7-6db9-4caa-959f-653dca6dfdb5
5	UNEP/GEF Project 'Implementation of the POPs Monitoring Plan in the Asian Region' (GEF ID 4894)	Moderately Satisfactory	8	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49502
6	UNEP Project "Providing Support to Countries and Cities in Improving Air Quality in Order to	Satisfactory	6	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49507

	Improve Environmental Quality and the Health and Well-Being of All" (SMA ID 40440)			
7	UNEP Project "Rapid Environmental Assistance for Crisis Affected Countries" (SMA ID 34823)	Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49527
8	UNEP/GEF Programme "Leapfrogging Markets to High Efficiency Products (Appliances, including Lighting, and Electrical Equipment) GEF 9083"	Moderately Satisfactory	4	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49640

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

No.	PROJECT TITLE	PERFORMANCE RATING	No. REC'S	REPORT LINK
1	UNEP/GEF project 'Development of a market for energy efficient lighting, air conditioners and refrigerators in Costa Rica' (GEF ID 9283)	Moderately Satisfactory	4	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49389
2	UNEP/GEF project 'Expansion and Improvement of Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Greater Shennonjia Area, Hubei Province' (GEF ID 4865)	Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49511
3	South-South Cooperation to Build Capacity on Reducing Plastics Pollution in ASEAN Countries' (IPMR SB-012354) 2024-2025 Note: This is GRANT was implemented under the UNEP project 'ONE UNEP Plastics initiative' (SMA ID 130677)	Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49513
4	UNEP/GEF project 'Accelerating the transition to electric public transport in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica' (GEF ID 10284)	Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49585
5	UNEP Project 'Collective Intelligence for Environmental Governance' (InforMEA Phase III) (PIMS ID 02090)	Satisfactory	6	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/49665

Opportunities, challenges, lessons learned, and actions taken

This quarter's evaluations reflect the broad range of UNEP's work. It includes the "Rapid Environmental Assistance for Crisis Affected Countries" project (SMA ID 34823), through which UNEP provides environmental assistance in crisis situations. The continued demand for these services confirms UNEP's value proposition in this area. Despite continuing challenges such as short timelines and limited resources, several interventions showed promising signs of sustainability, replication and scalability, with no unintended negative impacts identified.

For the first time, the Evaluation Office carried out a more 'systems-focused' evaluation for the GEF Programme: "Leapfrogging Markets to High Efficiency Products" (GEF ID 9083). GEF Programmes include, along with several country-level Child Projects, a Global Coordinating Project, which is implemented by the Programme-lead agency. In this evaluation, the performance of both the Programme and its Global Coordinating Project were evaluated, achieving a Moderately Satisfactory rating. Key lessons emphasize that market transformation is gradual, regional harmonization multiplies impact, affordability constraints remain critical, and private sector engagement—though technically strong—requires deeper financial mobilization.

The Evaluation Office notes that the validation of Management Led Terminal Reviews sometimes results in a change in the overall performance rating. In this quarter, the overall performance rating of one out of the five reports was validated at a lower level than that proposed by the review consultant.

QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 175th Meeting of the

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