

QUARTERLY REPORT

to the 170th Meeting of the
COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES



TWENTY-FIFTH ISSUE

January – March 2025

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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, regional and national developments during the first quarter of 2025, in the implementation of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy (MTS 2022-2025) and Programme of Work (PoW) for 2024-2025, both of which are aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Report further references linkages between programmatic delivery and progress on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA).

The report covers the period 1 January to 31 March 2025 and is organized in three sections:

Section One highlights key, non-programmatic global and regional developments (major inter-governmental meetings, other policy/political updates) in relation to the three planetary environmental crises of climate change, nature and land loss and pollution.

Section Two provides results from the implementation of UNEP's 2024-25 PoW in accordance with the three strategic objectives of the MTS (Climate stability, Living in harmony with nature, Towards a pollution-free planet), the two foundational sub-programmes (Science Policy, Environmental Governance), the two enabling sub-programmes (Digital Transformation, Finance and Economic Transformation), 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, as well as developments in other important management areas including audits and evaluations.

ACRONYMS

AEF	African Elephant Fund
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFD	French Development Agency
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
APCAP	Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APRFHE	Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment
ARDN	African Renaissance and Diaspora Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
CAMRE	Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Common Country Analysis
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSD	UN Commission for Social Development
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CYMG	Children and Youth Major Group
DCO	Development Coordination Office
DPIS	Digital Product Information Systems
EACO	East African Communications Organisation
EANET	Secretariat for the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia
ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EMG	UN Environment Management Group
EPIC	Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities
ESA	European Space Agency
ESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
EW4All	Early Warnings for All
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBFF	Global Biodiversity Framework Fund
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCI	Green Customs Initiative
GDI	Global Development Initiative
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEN	Geneva Environment Network
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GES	Good Environmental Status
GlobalABC	Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction
HDSS	Hydrological Decision Support System
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IBC	Issue-Based Coalition
IETC	International Environmental Technology Centre
IK & LK	Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge
IMAP	Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme
InforMEA	United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements

IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPSASB	International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
KMGBF	Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MED QSR	Mediterranean Quality Status Report
MTS	Medium-Term Strategy
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIR	National Inventory Report
OEWG	Open-Ended Working Group
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
QCPR	Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review
RAPAP	Asia-Pacific Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution
RBI	Reserve Bank of India
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAFFAL	South Asia Finance Facility for Acceleration and Leverage
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SICA	The One Health strategy for the Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), the Central American Integration System
SOFF	Systematic Observations Financing Facility
SPM	Summary for Policy Makers
SUN	Sustainable United Nations Facility
TNFD	Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFSS	UN Food Systems Summit
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Projects
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WASP	World Adaptation Science Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIO-ESAR	Western Indian Ocean–Eastern and Southern Africa
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
WoRMS	World Register of Marine Species
WSDS	World Sustainable Development Summit

1. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

A. Global developments

The first quarter of 2025 has been a tumultuous time for the international system, with ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan and elsewhere, as well as significant funding challenges in a changing political environment. Notwithstanding the wider political challenges, UNEP has continued its critical work to foster international cooperation to tackle shared global environmental threats.

UNEP@ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) [2025 Partnership Forum](#) (5 February, New York) brought together Member States, the UN system and a diverse range of stakeholders to exchange ideas and highlight forward-looking actions and innovative partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNEP co-organized the [SDG 14 Action Segment](#) of the forum which highlighted concrete actions and partnerships to achieve [SDG 14](#), Life below water, including through inclusive partnerships, building on interlinkages between SDGs to harness synergies and resources, and reliable, up-to-date science that can be translated into policy and action.

UNEP participated in the [2025 Coordination segment](#), (6 February, New York), that addressed mandates from the [2024 Ministerial Declaration](#) adopted by the ECOSOC and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) while promoting the implementation of the Pact for the Future and its annexes. In the panel entitled “*Exploring Transformative Solutions to Foster Sustainability and Build an Inclusive and Prosperous Future for All*”, UNEP outlined the transformative potential of critical energy transition minerals in a just, equitable and sustainable energy transition, echoing the seven guiding principles and five actionable recommendations of the [report](#) of the Secretary-General’s Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

Partnerships for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), organized a meeting (9 January, New York) between the UN System and Member States in New York and the China-led [Global Development Initiative](#) (GDI) on partnerships to enhance SDG implementation. UN entities participated as members of the UNDESA-led [Task Force on Leveraging Partnerships Towards the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda](#) on leveraging each other’s strengths, digital transformation, climate action, and sustainable development financing.

UNEP contributed to the Task Force that considered (5 March) a draft mapping of “*synergies and collaboration opportunities between Member States-led Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) acceleration initiatives and the UN Task Force*”. The meeting agreed to explore synergies between GDI and the Task force initiatives to support member states in areas of digital transformation, climate and poverty eradication.

International Day of Zero Waste

The world celebrated the third [International Day of Zero Waste](#) (30 March) with a focus on [sustainable fashion and textiles](#). Over 240 global activities, high-level engagements and flagship events took place in multiple cities including New York and Nairobi. A social media Zero Waste Day [campaign](#) featuring goodwill ambassadors and influencers, reached 7.45 million users and garnered over 600,000 interactions.

An estimated 92 million tonnes of textile waste is generated worldwide each year. This is equivalent to a truckload of clothing being incinerated or sent to landfills every second. UNEP in partnership with UN-Habitat and the Zero Waste Foundation emphasized the economic, social and environmental benefits of transitioning to circular business models. The [UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Zero Waste](#) selected, three best practices (Thailand, India, and Norway) for recognition, out of 220 submissions.



Zero Waste Day 2025 flagship event, 29-31 March, Zhejiang province, China
(Photo credit: UNEP)

International Day of Forests 2025

The International Day of Forests 2025 was celebrated (21 March) on the theme "Forests and Food". UNEP organized [The ABCs of Forests Cooking Show](#) at the UN Gigiri Complex in Nairobi to highlight the crucial [link](#) between forests and food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. This event featured local chefs and regional participants demonstrating the role of forests in sustainable food systems.

The Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

UNEP co-organized a briefing (28 January, New York) on the Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16), with the CBD Secretariat and Colombia. The CBD Executive Secretary shared the outcomes of COP16, held in Colombia (December), information on the concurrent Meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, details on the resumed session (25-27 February, Rome Italy) touching on the strategy for resource mobilization, monitoring of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and financial mechanisms.



Enhancing Public Sector Sustainability Reporting

The UNEP Sustainable UN Facility (SUN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Office for Projects (UNOPS) (Co-Chairs of Scope3 Advisory Group) prepared the UN system's response to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board's (IPSASB) Sustainability Reporting Standards Draft, [Climate-related Disclosures](#). The Finance and Budget network endorsed the responses and presented a unified UN system commentary on this issue to IPSASB on 27 February 2025.

56th Session of the Statistical Commission

At the [56th Session of the Statistical Commission](#), (4-7 March, New York) UNEP underlined the importance of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for monitoring the triple planetary crisis, and received feedback on the statistical guideline on measuring flows of plastics along the life cycle. Session [outcomes](#) included decisions on environmental-economic accounting ([56/112](#)), data science ([56/119](#)) and environment and climate change statistics ([56/124](#)).

Global Air Quality Cooperation Network Meeting

UNEP organized the first [meeting](#) of the Global Air Quality Cooperation Network, established by UNEP under [UNEA Resolution 6/10](#), on the margins of the WHO Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health (24 March, Cartagena). The meeting brought together over 110 participants from 36 Member States, UN agencies and regional bodies. Participants affirmed strong support for the Network to drive joint advocacy, align resources, and help countries leapfrog to solutions. Next steps include launching thematic working groups to advance progress on specific aspects of air quality management and establishing regular communication channels.

Circular Economy Model of Waste Management

The UNEP-International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) hosted the [Global Dialogue: Circular Economy Model of Waste Management](#) (17-18 February, Osaka), convening 300 experts, policymakers and stakeholders from over 40 countries who emphasized the need for policy innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and systemic shifts toward integrated resource circularity, where reuse of products can create more economic value, jobs and less of a waste burden. A youth session, co-organized with the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP, brought together students from China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea to share global challenges and solutions in waste management. The session concluded with the "[Mottainai Youth Declaration on Zero Waste and Circularity](#)." A growing discourse is aligning zero waste with more circular solutions in key economic sectors.

Science-policy panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention

UNEP is supporting preparations by the [ad hoc open-ended working group](#) (OEWG) for the deliberations on an up-coming science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention (June, Uruguay). The UNEP-hosted secretariat of the working group briefed national focal points on the scenario note for the second part of the third session (OEWG 3.2); outlining meeting objectives, key topics, and the transition to an intergovernmental meeting (25 March). The webinar discussed the importance of finalizing the foundational document and draft rules of procedure, as per [UNEA Resolution 5/8](#).

Additionally, an [online event](#) (23 January), part of the "[Road to OEWG 3.2](#)" series, engaged 520+ stakeholders, offering insights from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)



and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on establishing a science-policy panel for chemicals, waste, and pollution prevention.

UN Commission for Social Development

The [63rd Session of the UN Commission for Social Development](#) (5-14 February, New York), aimed at strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNEP highlighted the need for collective action to address the drivers of shocks, including the identification of emerging issues, and how to prevent or limit future damage, and reducing the impact on social development.

Preparations for the 2026 United Nations Water Conference

To kick off preparations for the [2026 United Nations Water Conference](#), an organizational session held (3 March), made updated recommendations to the General Assembly on the themes of the interactive dialogues. UNEP underlined that achieving long-term sustainability and resilience of water resources for people and planet requires integrated water resource management to fully address environmental and climate perspectives together, and a shift from sectoral thinking to an economy-wide approach across the water cycle.

Beijing@30 - 69th Session of CSW

UNEP participated in the [69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (10-21 March, New York), which focused on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Commission adopted the [Political declaration](#) on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and its [Multi-year programme of work](#). The declaration recognizes new challenges and reaffirms the political commitment to tackle 12 areas, including women and the environment, and mainstreaming a gender perspective into environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies.



**Interfaith Women Council
UNEP Faith for Earth Coalition**

Earlier (23 January, New York), UNEP re-affirmed the importance of synergies and coordinated interagency actions at a UN Women-organized interagency preparatory meeting to update stakeholders to promote UN entities collaboration in advancing gender equality.

UNEP co-organized (13 March, New York) a parallel [event](#), *Women of Faith Leading Change: Going Further, Faster, Together for Climate and Gender Justice*, with Ireland, Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone. It spotlighted the [Faith for Earth Interfaith Women Council's](#) role in promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability. The [Council](#) launched (30 January) brings together 26 faith leaders to advance climate justice and gender equality.

Accreditation to UNEP

During the reporting period, 15 new organizations were accredited to UNEP and its governing bodies, representing Children and Youth (1), and NGOs (14). The list of accredited organizations can be found [here](#). As of 25 March 2025, there were 1,261 accredited organizations.

UNEP Publications

A full list of the 43 UNEP publications released between 2 October 2024 and 6 April 2025 (the period between the Publications Board's meetings), as well as the 132 concepts approved by the Publications Board for future release dates, can be found [here](#). Upon release, select publications are made available [here](#).

B. Regional Developments

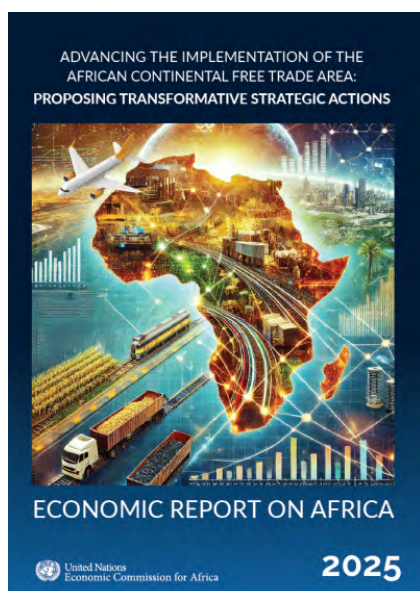
During the quarter, UNEP's regional offices continued the important work of representing UNEP in the regions and supporting national and regional priorities to encourage greater collaboration in support of the MTS and PoW (see also Section 2).

i. Africa

Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

The 57th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development (12-18 March, Addis Ababa) concluded with a resounding call for Africa to own and pursue its development agenda. The event featured a series of high-level ministerial dialogues, where the UNEP Deputy Executive Director highlighted the need to enhance collaboration between Africa's Ministries of Finance and Economic Planning and their counterparts in Environment ministries, citing a growing trend of environmental shocks with increased risks to national and regional economies.

UNEP and UNECA agreed in principle to cooperate in co-convening a joint ministerial forum of Ministers of Environment and Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at the 59th UNECA session in 2027.



ii. Asia and the Pacific

The 12th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)

UNEP was actively engaged to strengthen the environmental dimension of the [Forum](#) (25-28 February, Bangkok, Thailand) which was held under the theme of "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for leaving no one behind in Asia and the Pacific".

UNEP co-authored five SDG progress briefs to ensure that the environmental dimension was reflected under SDG Goals [3 \(good health and well-being\)](#); [5 \(gender equality\)](#); [8 \(decent work and economic growth\)](#); [14 \(life below water\)](#) and [17 \(partnership for the Goals\)](#); co-chairing the multi stakeholder SDG 14 Roundtable; and supporting four official side events on environmental rights, youth and gender and energy policies.

The UN Resident Coordinators of Asia Pacific annual retreat

UNEP organized a session at the retreat (19-21 February, Bangkok, Thailand), with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Development Coordination Office (DCO) on "*Enhancing Transboundary Cooperation for Sustainable Solutions: Lessons from Addressing Transnational Crime and the Triple Planetary Crisis*". The session aimed to promote UN Resident Coordinators' engagement with the Regional Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities as well as other regional forums supported by UNEP including Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Health and Environment (APRFHE); the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET); Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership; Asia Pacific Adaptation Network; Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA).

The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025

Various global leaders and policymakers participated in the World Sustainable Development Summit to drive integrated action toward achieving the SDGs by fostering collaboration, mainstreaming sustainability, and advancing systemic solutions to address interconnected global challenges. UNEP participated in a session on 'Achieving Sustainable Development through Integrated Action' at the Summit (5-9 March, New Delhi, India), held under the theme 'Partnerships for Accelerating Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions'. The session discussed the importance of integrated approaches in achieving sustainable development and underscored the need for cross-sector collaboration, policy frameworks, and innovative solutions. The Summit Overview report is available [here](#).



The 5th Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Joint Forum's panel discussion, 20 March, Yokohama, Japan
(Photo credit: Asia Center for Air Pollution Research)

5th Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) Joint Forum

The [5th APCAP Joint Forum](#) (20-21 March, Yokohama), hosted by Japan's Ministry of the Environment and co-organized by UNEP and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) brought together nearly 200 air quality stakeholders from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector to discuss scaling up clean air investments and proposed priorities for the next phase, including aligning air quality and climate action, tackling ground-level ozone, and mobilizing finance. The Forum launched key initiatives such as: [UNESCAP's Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution \(RAPAP\) Online Partnership and Coordination Platform](#); [Clean Air and Climate Solutions for ASEAN by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#); and the [SAFFAL Climate Tech for Women](#) initiative by UNEP and the Massive Earth Foundation under the EmPower Programme with UN Women.

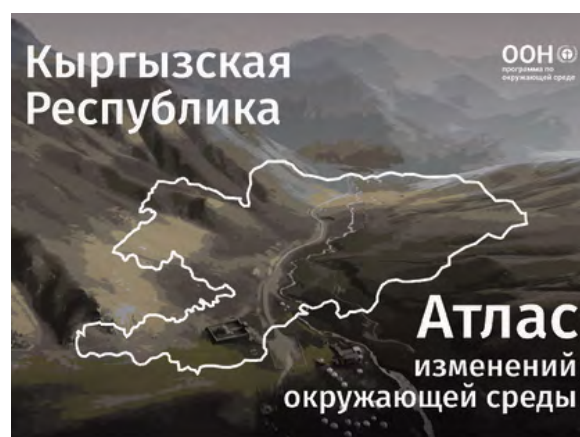
iii. Europe

Atlas of Environmental Change for the Kyrgyz Republic

The [Atlas of Environmental Change](#) for the Kyrgyz Republic was [launched](#). (26 March, Bishkek). Developed using global, regional and national datasets spanning six decades, the Atlas integrates historical data with the latest satellite technology to provide detailed information on the environment focusing on the country's terrestrial and aquatic

ecosystems, helping track progress towards the [three Rio Conventions](#) (climate change, biodiversity and desertification), [SDG6 \(clean water and sanitation\)](#) and [SDG15 \(life on land\)](#).

The information contained within the Atlas will assist the Kyrgyz Republic in monitoring the environment, reporting under Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), and in preparing its national state of environment report. It will also provide a solid evidence base for policy and decision-makers to manage the environment sustainably. To ensure continued accessibility and relevance, the Atlas is made available to the government through a GeoPortal, allowing for regular updates based on national priorities.



Atlas of Environmental Change – Kyrgyz Republic

Clean Air Action Dialogue

UNEP, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision (MNRETS) of the Kyrgyz Republic, organized a Clean Air Action Dialogue (26 February, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic), to review progress on clean air initiatives. The outcomes of the Dialogue are captured in the "[Overview of Clean Air Actions in Kyrgyzstan 2018-2024](#)" report which identifies future priorities for action.

As co-chair of Development Partners Coordinating Council (DPCC)'s air quality working group, UNEP provided technical guidance, facilitated sessions on international best practices, and presented progress updates on clean air initiatives. The dialogue enhanced multi-sectoral coordination, produced concrete recommendations for improved air quality management, and fostered international knowledge exchange, reinforcing the implementation of [UNEA 6/10](#) and [UNEA 3/8 resolutions](#).

Mainstreaming Biodiversity into CCAs and UNSDCFs

The [Issue-Based Coalition \(IBC\) on Environment and Climate Change and the UN Environment Management Group](#) (EMG) co-organized a [webinar](#) on *Guidance and Finance for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs)* (18 March). The webinar aimed at strengthening UN Country Teams' capacity to integrate biodiversity into CCAs and CFs.

During the webinar, key [advocacy messages](#) were shared, highlighting the importance of integrating biodiversity considerations into development planning. In addition a [guidance document](#) outlining entry points, tools, and recommendations for mainstreaming biodiversity into national planning processes was shared. The webinar reinforced the importance of aligning biodiversity commitments with national priorities and mobilizing resources for effective implementation.

Gen@25 Environment Network

Hundreds of diplomats, over fifty intergovernmental organizations and secretariats, as well as leading voices and experts committed to advancing environmental multilateralism came together to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the [Geneva Environment Network \(GEN\)](#) at the GEN@25 Environment Forum and [high-level closing ceremony](#) (20 January, Geneva). The celebration culminated in a high-level panel discussion on "*Multilateralism Looking at the Future – Protecting the Environment with Humanity at the Centre*".

UNEP showcased InforMEA and related platforms at the [GEN@25 Environment Forum](#) (20 January, Geneva) as digital tools to strengthen environmental law and governance through improved access to legal information. The [Executive Director](#) underscored the need for environmental policy coherence and synergies, highlighting the importance of working across agencies, across nations and across partners to effectively tackle the triple planetary crisis.



Geneva Environment Network (GEN)@25 High Level Celebration, 20 January, [Geneva](#)
(Photo credit: GEN)

iv. Latin America and the Caribbean

Advancing Adaptation Finance

In the framework of Brazil's G20 Presidency and the next Conference of the Parties (COP30), (25 March, Brasilia, Brazil) on "Adaptation as a Priority for COP30" brought together global leaders to advance discussions and momentum on Adaptation Finance ahead of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP30 in Belém. Experts from national and international organizations explored strategies and challenges in securing USD 1.3 trillion for Adaptation Finance, a significant leap from the USD 300 million commitment at COP29 in Baku.

UNEP presented the Adaptation GAP Report and set the scene for the session "Doubling Adaptation Finance by 2025: What Success Are We Aiming For?" Significant progress was made to promote the integration of the environment and health agenda in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

One Health Strategy

UNEP joined an inter-agency kick-off meeting (21 January 2025) for the implementation of the One Health Strategy of the SICA (Intergovernmental organization for the Central American countries and Dominican Republic), alongside other entities such as Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and regional entities.

Members of the Quadripartite in the Americas (FAO, UNEP, PAHO/WHO, WOAH) developed a draft Joint Declaration to consolidate the One Health coordination mechanism in the region. UNEP also strengthened its cooperation with PAHO/WHO to advance the environment and health nexus, by promoting cooperation on air quality and health at the 2nd Global Conference on Air Quality and Health (26-28 March, Cartagena, Colombia).

Environmental Alliance of America

With UNEP support, the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) of Costa Rica joined [the Environmental Alliance of America](#) as an honorary member (1 February). The Alliance serves as a regional platform to harmonize voluntary environmental standards and advance product sustainability information across Latin America and the Caribbean, including through the region's first ecolabeling programme. The initiative aims to create sustainable business opportunities for approximately 20% of frontrunner companies offering mainstream products in high-impact sectors. The Ministry joins the Alliance as a regulatory body, reinforcing Costa Rica's leadership alongside its national standardization and accreditation institutions, which are already members.



A presentation by UNEP at the 'Adaptation as a priority for COP30' event, 25 February, Brasilia, Brazil (Photo credit: Instituto Talanoa)

v. West Asia

Arab Forum on Sustainable Development

A [consultative meeting](#) on the environmental dimension of sustainable development (Agenda 2030) was held (25-26 February, Cairo) in preparation for the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development. The forum is a high-level meeting that brings together decision makers from the Arab region with a focus on [SDG3 \(Good Health and Well-being\)](#), [SDG14 \(Life below water\)](#) and [SDG17 \(partnerships for the goals\)](#).

UNEP introduced the West Asia Air Quality Network as a collaborative initiative among governments to protect human health and the environment. Under SDG14, UNEP shared knowledge and lessons learned from its blue economy initiative launched last year in the region. UNEP and UNDP presented a position paper on a policy coherence and holistic approach to sustainably manage water resources, agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and adaptation to climate change.



The Arab Forum for Sustainable Development Consultative Meeting, UNEP West Asia booth, 25-26 February, Cairo
(Photo credit: UNEP)

2. PROGRAMME OF WORK IMPLEMENTATION

A. Climate Stability

Raising Ambitions on Climate Actions (Asia-Pacific)

The 2025 workplan for the UNEP and ESCAP co-led IBC, was presented at the UN Resident Coordinators' Regional Workshop (19 February, Bangkok, Thailand). It aims to: strengthen partnerships for implementing current Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and developing economy-wide and investable new NDCs; advance the energy transition including policy brief and technical papers on National Pathways and Just Transition; advance implementation of regional air pollution action plan and enhance transparency frameworks, implementation of carbon market mechanisms and co-benefits of an integrated approach.

UNEP at the Oman Climate Week

UNEP supported the organization of the [Oman Climate Week](#) (24 -25 February, Muscat). The Conference and the associated exhibition were attended by approximately 1,000 participants. UNEP joined the Chairman of the Environment Authority and President of UNEA-7 in opening the conference and participated in the high-level panel on net zero. The conference called for more ambitious actions to meet the 1.5°C goal and additional and innovative financing to support the implementation of the NDCs and the net zero pledges.

Enhanced Transparency Framework workshops in Iraq

UNEP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Iraq, hosted 2 workshops (4 - 7 March) under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). This marked a major step in the preparation of Iraq's First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), strengthening its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

The two workshops brought together ministries, experts and national focal points; and focused on understanding ETF reporting requirements. They included hands-on-training on using the online ETF tool for greenhouse gas inventory and tracking the progress of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The second workshop included a technical consultation to revise and validate the BTR. Participants discussed insights on Iraq's National Inventory Report (NIR) and NDCs, challenges and best practices in adaptation, loss and damage and climate finance.

Strengthening Cooperation in Haiti

UNEP organized an experience-sharing webinar (26 February) entitled, "Strengthening Cooperation and the Influence of Haitian Civil Society". The virtual event brought together stakeholders from across Haiti with the objective of supporting the creation of an environmental civil society platform in Haiti, building upon experiences of the REDD+ Climate Working Group (GTCR) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The poster is for a webinar titled "REINFORCEMENT DE LA COOPÉRATION ET DE L'INFLUENCE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE HAÏTIENNE: EXPÉRIENCES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO (RDC) ET DU CENTRAIRIQUE". It features the UNEP logo and the text "WEBINAIRE" and "ONU environnement". A section titled "INTERVENANTS" lists three speakers: ALAIN PARFAIT NOULINOU (Structuration des ONGCS de la société civile pour l'atténuation climatique, CAS DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL CLIMAT REDD+ (GTCR) EN RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO 2019-2023), PARFAIT DÉSIRÉ ZOCA (L'expérience de la plateforme pour la gestion durable des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement (GDRNE) en Centrairique), and PACHUCO JEAN BAPTISTE (L'expérience haïtienne de structuration des organisations de la société civile autour de l'environnement). At the bottom, it provides a registration link: "Lien d'inscription: https://tinyurl.com/2p2m2u2u" and the date and time: "26 février 2025, 10h - 11h30".

Enhancing climate observation capacities in Bhutan and Cabo Verde

UNEP, with funding from the [Systematic Observations Financing Facility \(SOFF\)](#), is addressing critical weather and climate data gaps in Bhutan and Cabo Verde. The SOFF-funded UNEP Investment Phase projects, valued at US\$ 4.5 million in Bhutan and US\$ 3.8 million in Cabo Verde, were officially launched through inception workshops (28-29 January, Thimphu) and [stakeholder consultations](#) (25-26 March, Praia). By strengthening the accuracy of weather forecasting, these initiatives enhance early warning systems and directly contribute to the global Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, which aims to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027.

Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC)

UNEP's Global Adaptation Network is partnering with the EPIC Network and START International to help spread the EPIC Model to countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Four workshops were organized (Banjul, Lusaka, Mombasa, Monrovia), to train 108 city and university officials on applying the EPIC model to local climate resilience efforts. The workshops paired training with locally co-developed work plans, which helped ensure continuity of action beyond the training itself and forming strengthened strategic partnerships between local governments and universities across all four cities.

Green and Climate Financing in India

The UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) along with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held a panel discussion (12 March, New Delhi, India) to address the challenges faced by India in its transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, that requires more than \$10 trillion in investment. The panel discussion explored strategies for mobilizing green and climate finance in India, drawing on international best practices and addressing the specific challenges and opportunities within the Indian context. The panel featured practitioners from Standard Chartered, Maybank, MUFG Bank Ltd (MUFG), the Development Bank of Singapore Limited (DBS) and Société Générale.

Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction

UNEP under the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction ([GlobalABC](#)) launched the [Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction](#) (17 March). This included a [Press Release](#), [Key Messages](#) and [Social](#)



[Media assets in all UN languages](#). The report was mentioned in 207 articles by 98 media outlets across 25 countries - main languages were English, French and Indonesian.

Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience in Azerbaijan

UNEP led a mission (17-21 February, Baku, Azerbaijan), to support the inception of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) project, "*Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience in Azerbaijan*". This mission focused on project inception and ensuring compliance with GCF standards. This included a high-level stakeholder meeting co-chaired by the Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources. Additionally, the UN Resident Coordinator was briefed on UNEP's ongoing initiatives and emphasized UNEP's role in the new Cooperation Framework.

Climate change and Disaster-related statistics in Ethiopia and Cameroon

UNEP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) provided capacity building activities on climate change and disaster-related statistics at national workshops (28-30 January, Ethiopia and 12-13 March 2025, Cameroon). In addition to the national workshops, UNEP also developed a Sendai Monitoring Framework Data self-assessment tool to support countries in the qualitative analysis of disaster-related data and statistics for the Sendai Framework, and is currently supporting Kenya, Ethiopia and Cameroon in their assessments.

B. Living in Harmony with Nature

Caribbean Regional BBNJ Conference

The High Seas Alliance, in collaboration with the [UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat](#) and EarthEcho International, hosted the [Caribbean Regional BBNJ Conference](#) (30 January, Virtual), to explore the pivotal role of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) in securing the future of the Caribbean's marine resources. The virtual conference facilitated participation of the youth, CSOs, indigenous groups and academics, enabling them to actively contribute to the treaty's advocacy and implementation efforts.

Accelerating BBNJ Ratification

The [UNEP Nairobi Convention Secretariat](#) gathered representatives from the Western Indian Ocean–Eastern and Southern Africa (WIO-ESAR) region at a workshop (4–6 March, Mombasa, Kenya) to accelerate the ratification of the [Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction \(BBNJ Agreement\)](#). The workshop emphasized conservation strategies and equitable benefit-sharing, with

outcomes including a commitment to developing a roadmap for ratification, fostering collaborating and integrating treaty provisions into national frameworks.

Protecting Biodiversity and Land in the Lake Tanganyika Basin

UNEP supported the governments of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia to [launch](#) a five-year project to assess and address transboundary threats to the biodiversity of the Lake Tanganyika Basin (26 February, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania). This initiative, funded by the GEF, focuses on [sustainable fisheries, biodiversity conservation, and restoring degraded landscapes](#) and aims to enhance transboundary cooperation.

Congo Basin Landscape Initiative

UNEP organised the second annual meeting (18–20 March, Brazzaville, Congo) of the [“Securing crucial biodiversity, carbon and water stores in the Congo Basin Peatlands by enabling evidence-based decision-making and good governance”](#) project. UNEP's technical implementing partner, UNEP-DHI, developed a “Hydrological Decision Support System” (HDSS) which was presented by UNEP as a tool that will deliver data-driven insights around climate and water to equip decision makers with scientific evidence needed for sustainable peatland management.



Critical ecosystems: Congo basin peatlands
(Photo credit: UNEP)

Nature Action Dialogues

UNEP hosted the [2025 Nature Action Dialogues](#) (25-26 March, Cambridge, United Kingdom) that brought together almost 200 business and finance leaders and biodiversity experts to build connections, foster collaboration and discuss potential solutions to environmental and societal challenges. With a focus on accelerating private sector action at the nexus of biodiversity, climate and water, the event facilitated meaningful exchange and generated new ideas through a series of engaging interactive workshops, wide-ranging presentations and case studies from specialists in industry and conservation.

Accountability for Nature Report 2025

UNEP launched the 2025 edition of the [Accountability for Nature Report](#) (18 February), which provides an overview of key trends in nature-related approaches to assessment and disclosure. The new edition includes a dedicated addendum on pollution, examining how it impacts ecosystems, economies and financial stability.

UNEP/MAP 50th Anniversary

[UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan \(MAP\) - Barcelona Convention](#) 50 anniversary celebrations were officially launched (23 January, Rome, Italy) at an event that commenced with the unveiling of the Odyssey Reloaded campaign and the launch of the [Second edition of the Mediterranean Quality Status Report \(MED QSR\)](#). The MED QSR series builds on a robust conceptual foundation and nationally sourced, quality-assured data submitted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention or other reliable sources, to provide an evidence-based intelligible assessment of

Good Environmental Status (GES) of the Mediterranean Sea and coast, based on a GES /non-GES approach, as defined in the framework of the ecosystem approach and its Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme IMAP.

Developing data solutions for new marine species discoveries

UNEP launched a new data platform (10 March) in partnership with the Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census. The [Ocean Census Biodiversity Data Platform](#) (currently in beta version) aims to provide open, accessible and authoritative information on newly discovered marine species. It is integrated with the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) taxonomic database. The Ocean Census is a UN Ocean Decade-endorsed initiative which aims to accelerate marine species discovery, with the goal of 100,000 new discoveries in the next ten years.

Enhancing food security and resilience in Sudan

UNEP in partnership with the European Union launched a new initiative to enhance food security and build the climate resilience of communities in and around Sudan's Dinder National Park (28 February, Port Sudan). The project aims to directly support nearly 21,000 households with at least 40 per cent of whom are women and will support the wider community to build sustainable livelihoods - creating a ripple effect that benefits over 82,000 people in a country affected by serious conflict, food insecurity and famine.

UN Food Systems Summit +4

UNEP supported the holding of the UN Food Systems Summit ([UNFSS+4](#)) [Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific](#) (3-5 March, Bangkok, Thailand). Food systems national conveners from 24 countries in the region, representatives of civil society and other partners including international financial institutions, participated. The session focused on investment opportunities for Food Systems Transformation (FST) to identify investment opportunities and platforms that promote scale-able, sustainable solutions to ensure access to finance and investments.

UNEP's contributions specifically focused on scaling-up financing for agrifood systems transformation and strengthening the convergence between food systems and nature action. UNEP highlighted the findings of its publication "Driving Finance for Sustainable Food Systems" on the role of governments and private sector in addressing the risks in investments and monitoring the financing flows to identify the gaps.





An interactive session at the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for UN Food Systems Transformation. 3-5 March, Bangkok (Photo credit: UNESCO)

C. Towards a pollution-free planet

Composting Solid Organic Waste

UNEP developed a technical guide on “[Composting Solid Organic Waste from Municipal Sources in West Asia](#)”, which was [featured](#) during the International Day of Zero Waste. With over half of the West Asian region’s municipal waste—mostly food—ending up in landfills due to limited composting infrastructure, the guide helps decision-makers and waste managers convert organic waste into economic value. It encourages circular approaches by promoting locally adapted composting methods and organic waste recycling to reduce landfill reliance.



Integrating Waste Methane in NDCs

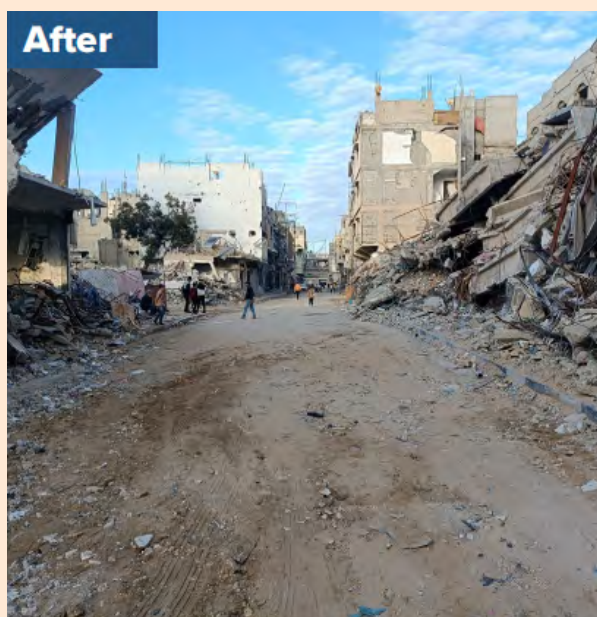
UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition organized a [webinar](#) (25 February) on strategies for enhancing methane inclusion in NDCs in Latin America and the Caribbean’s waste sector. With waste streams comprising 50% organic waste and methane contributing to half of some cities’ GHG emissions, the region holds significant potential for mitigation and co-benefits through a circular economy. Methane is the primary contributor to the formation of ground-level ozone, a greenhouse gas and air pollutant that is harmful to human health, agricultural crops, and ecosystems.

Coordinating Ukraine’s Green Recovery

UNEP hosted the First Coordination Group Meeting of the [Green Recovery Platform](#) (16 January) which focused on enhancing coordination with key initiatives in Ukraine, including asbestos management, district energy, sustainable wastewater management, green jobs, and the Kakhovka Dam Breach Assessment.

Advancing debris management in Gaza

UNEP, co-chairing the UNDP/UNEP [Gaza Debris Management Working Group](#), continued to lead coordinated debris clearance efforts in Gaza and launched an [Information Hub](#) (30 January). The UNDP/UNEP Emergency Debris Management Pilot Project removed 22,000 tonnes of debris from 27 key roads, improving access for 200,000 people and creating over 1,000 local workdays. Two debris recycling sites are being established in Khan Younis and Deir El-Balah, with an environmental impact assessment in progress.



Debris clean-up is a critical first step in restoring humanitarian access and helping communities recover
(Photo credit: UNDP/PAPP Image Bank)

The report of the [Gaza and West Bank Interim Rapid Damage Needs Assessment](#), with UNEP acting as coordinator of UN system inputs, was published in February 2025. The Assessment identified the development of a “*Debris and Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan*” as a key component of the recovery and reconstruction process. UNEP is leading the development of the environment sector strategy for the Gaza Conflict Recovery Framework, which is one of the key follow-up actions from the assessment.

Strengthening Chemicals and Waste Management

UNEP’s [Special Programme](#) supports country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level. The Programme’s [Executive Board](#) meeting (17-19 March, Geneva) approved eight new projects under the eighth funding round, bringing the total portfolio to 91 projects with a combined budget of US\$23.9 million. The Board highlighted concerns over the financial situation and the need for new funding sources to sustain the Programme through 2030, in line with [UNEA resolution 5/7](#). The ninth funding round will be postponed until further resource mobilization can be undertaken. A [report](#) highlighting the successes of Programme was shared, marking its tenth anniversary.

Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

UNEP convened an Expert Consultation Workshop on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (5–6 March, Geneva) under the [Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management](#), to exchange knowledge and

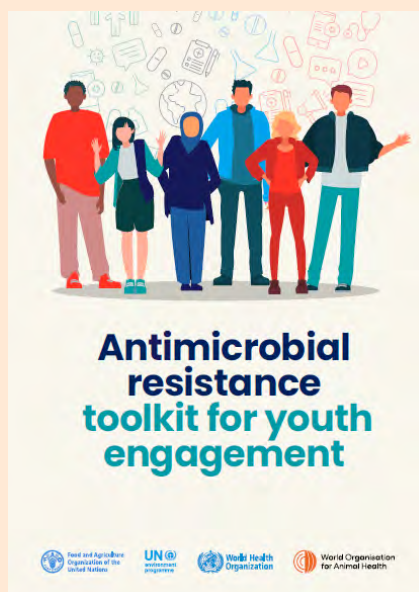
advance the development of policy guidance to curb pharmaceutical pollution. The workshop gathered insights from governments, NGOs, IGOs, industry, and academia. It underscored the value of a lifecycle approach and broad stakeholder engagement for effective solutions.

Addressing Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

UNEP together with FAO, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, and WOAHA launched their first joint brief, [Antimicrobial resistance prevention and education in schools: a brief for education policy-makers and school practitioners](#), emphasizing the need for urgent action and the role of education in a One Health response. UNEP also contributed to toolkit series for [youth](#), educators, and [policymakers](#).

UNEP, on behalf of the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAHA), presented a [roadmap](#) for the establishment of the Independent Panel for Evidence for Action against AMR (IPEA) in 2025 at the information Session (30 January) of the [Global Leaders Group](#) on AMR that provided views and guidance on its governance and functions.

UNEP also contributed to the 12th meeting of the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund Steering Committee (11–12 February, Paris) which reviewed project progress, financial status, new project proposals, and discussed resource mobilization and the Fund’s future in light of the post [UNGA HLM Political Declaration](#) and the [4th Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR](#).



Regulating mercury trade in Latin America

The UNEP-GEF [project](#) on mercury trade in Latin America was launched with an [inception workshop](#) (11-12 March, Bogota), bringing together stakeholders from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, and Peru. The initiative sought to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance control of mercury flows, and mitigate health and environmental risks, supporting countries in meeting their [Minamata Convention](#) commitments. The workshop outlined key project activities, expected outcomes, and a clear roadmap for implementation.

Sustainable Nitrogen Management in Trinidad and Tobago

In partnership with Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, UNEP's [Working Group on Nitrogen](#) hosted a workshop (4 February, Port of Spain) to validate the draft National Action Plan (NAP) on sustainable nitrogen management. With UNEP's support, participants endorsed the draft Plan and recommended policy revisions, an inter-ministerial oversight committee, and realistic implementation targets. The validated Plan will be submitted for Cabinet approval.

Strengthening Plastic Pollution Management

UNEP organized a regional workshop on [National Capacity Building for Plastic Pollution in Pacific Island Countries](#) (4–6 February, Nadi, Fiji), in collaboration with Fiji's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, under the *Strengthening Plastic Pollution Management in Asia and the Pacific* (Mekong and Pacific) project.



[Interactive](#) on Beat Pollution: A Pollution free planet

The workshop provided participants with the tools and knowledge to tackle plastic pollution, focusing on the specific challenges faced by island nations.

The project held its [closing conference](#) (5-6 March, Bangkok), bringing together government officials, experts, and industry leaders. The participants showcased the elements of innovative plastic management including circular economy approaches such as product design for reuse, and domestic Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies, and emphasized the importance of sustaining efforts such as monitoring and managing plastic pollution in riverine environments beyond the project.

LAC intercity network for circular plastic economy

UNEP launched the [Network of Cities](#) on Circular Economy of Plastic in Latin America and the Caribbean (26 March, Cartagena), uniting cities from Colombia, Jamaica, and Panama. The initiative aims to foster technical cooperation on plastic pollution, supported by the [GEF LAC Cities project](#) and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. The event introduced the Network's vision, mission, and operational framework.

Cooperation on Best Practices and Sustainable Solutions

The governments of Chile and Canada organized a [regional workshop](#), with UNEP and the Pacific Alliance's Technical Group on Environment and Green Growth (March 12-13, online), on strategies to reduce single-use plastics, combat marine pollution, and promote circular economy strategies in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. Key policy initiatives showcased, included Chile's Single-Use Plastics Law, which bans disposable plastic items in food establishments, and Canada's Zero Plastic Waste by 2030 plan, which emphasizes Extended Producer Responsibility and innovation in sustainable materials. The upcoming Forum of Ministers of Environment in Lima (October 2025) was highlighted as a key opportunity to strengthen regional commitments to eliminate plastic pollution.

Training on Circular Economy Indicators

UNEP provided [National Training on Circular Economy indicators](#) (10-21 February, [Colombia](#); 10-21 March, Kenya and 24 March - 4 April, Benin). The training empowered 45 officials with knowledge and know-how to collect information and develop SDG indicators on sustainable consumption and production, waste, food waste and loss and water; strengthen inter-institutional coordination to invigorate production of SDG indicators and data flows through hosting data producers and users together; and share and discuss country challenges in measuring specific indicators.

D. Foundational Subprogrammes

i. Science-Policy

World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP)

[The Fifth Annual and Strategic Scoping Meeting of the World Adaptation Science Programme \(WASP\)](#), was held at the European Commission (4-6 March 2025, Brussels) in a hybrid format. Over 50 interdisciplinary experts and representatives of the sponsor agencies engaged in a strategic discussion on WASP's future goals, objectives and activities to agree on a way forward for the programme. The meeting also provided an opportunity to take stock of results achieved, and activities implemented over the past six years.



WASP Fifth Annual and Strategic Scoping Meeting of the World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP), 4-6 March, Brussels
(Photo Credit: WASP-Member/ Manishka De Me)

The Head of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Division of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Funds in Washington DC, United States of America, was elected and welcomed as the new Chairperson of the WASP. She took over from the Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Geneva.

Third Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) Dialogue

The GEO-7 Third Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) Dialogue (12-16 January, Chiang Mai, Thailand) focused on the review of the Second Order Draft of the GEO-7 and its Summary for Policy Makers. The dialogue had 20 Indigenous people as well as local community representatives.

By focused discussions in working groups as well as sharing in plenary, the dialogue generated significant contributions to the chapters of the GEO-7, the Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) and the IK & LK Chapeaux, with 1,300 comments collected. Of these, 1,000 were gathered during the main dialogue, and an additional 300 were received from 13 active participants via individual submissions.

ii. Environmental Governance

Air Quality Legislation

UNEP participated in the [19th Course on MEAs](#) (24 March–2 April, Thailand) where it shared insights from the Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation.

UNEP also co-organized a session with [WHO on air quality enforcement at the WHO 2nd Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health](#) (25–27 March, Colombia).

Strengthening Waste Management Legal Frameworks

UNEP participated in the [7th East African Communications Organization \(EACO\) Regional E-Waste Awareness Conference](#) (24–26 March, Nairobi) presenting a Legislative Guide for E-Waste Management tailored for East African Community countries. UNEP also co-organized [a UNODC-UNEP seminar on Waste Trafficking and Circular Economy](#) (30–31 January, Kuala Lumpur) engaging stakeholders from Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU).

Enhancing Green Customs Enforcement

UNEP supported the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures (24–28 February, Republic of Korea) delivering presentations on the Green Customs Initiative and Green Customs Guide. Additionally, UNEP contributed to the [19th Green Customs Initiative \(GCI\) Partners Meeting](#) (20 February, The Hague) resulting in an updated work plan and revised training modules.

Strengthening Environmental Law and Climate Legislation

UNEP conducted Leader and Executive Training on Climate Justice and Environmental Law under the



The GEO-7 Third Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge (IK & LK) Dialogue Participants Field Trip, 12-16 January, Chiang Mai, Thailand (Photo Credit: UNEP)

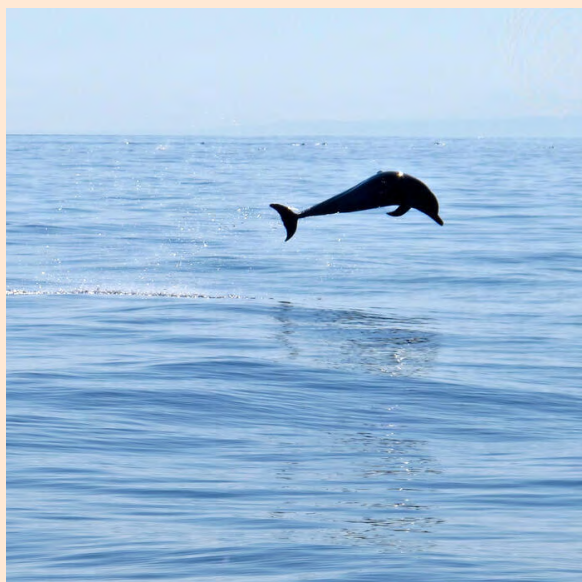
[AFD-funded Justice Project](#) (5 February, Laos) and reviewed draft National Environmental Quality and Climate Change Acts, providing recommendations for governance improvements (6 February, Thailand). UNEP remotely participated in a [session](#) in Botswana, [disseminating](#) its Law and Climate Change Toolkit to aid national climate legislation development (5 March). UNEP also reviewed the draft Climate Change Management Bill (17 March, Zimbabwe) and participated in a validation workshop (18 March, Kwekwe, Zimbabwe). UNEP continued its support to Chile in developing regulations and regional plans for implementing the Framework Law on Climate Change.

Support for National Biosafety Legislation

UNEP helped finalize a draft national biosafety law, aligned with the Cartagena Protocol (31 January, Burundi) and supported the launch of an inception workshop for drafting biosafety legislation (19 February, Morocco). UNEP reviewed the 2005 National Biosafety Law, providing recommendations for legislative improvement (January, Guinea).

Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Marine Biodiversity Conservation

UNEP hosted a two-part webinar series (18–19 March) on the [interlinkages](#) between the [BBNJ Agreement](#) and biodiversity, chemicals and waste-related MEAs. The sessions, building on the [Montevideo Programme V Training](#), gathered 300 participants.



A dolphin leaps through the waters off Atauro Island, Timor Leste (Photo credit: UN)

Advancing Environmental Justice, Human Rights, and Corporate Sustainability

UNEP supported the [2nd Regional Judicial Dialogue on Environmental Justice](#) (17–18 February, Jakarta) contributing to a Guidebook on Environmental Case Procedures. At the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2025, UNEP co-organized two side events on youth engagement (25 February) in SDGs 3, 8, and 14 emphasizing the role of youth in sustainable solutions and on [women's environmental rights protection](#) (28 February).

UNEP provided expert guidance to the Papua New Guinea United Nations Country Team (UNCT) on human rights and environmental law (7 March). At the 58th UN Human Rights Council, UNEP organized key sessions including a [side event to present core human rights principles](#) for private conservation organizations, (12 March, Geneva); and [a UNEP and OHCHR briefing](#) on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment (13 March). UNEP co-organized the [Corporate Sustainability and Environmental Rights in Asia \(CSERA\) Conference](#) (18–19 March) engaging 200 stakeholders in discussions on corporate accountability and human rights due diligence.

Advancing Environmental Law and Governance

UNEP partnered with the University of Buenos Aires (6–7 February, Argentina) to convene the 2nd Meeting of the Platform of Environmental Law Lecturers in LAC, identifying collaboration priorities and drafting a model environmental law curriculum. UNEP and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) [co-hosted a workshop](#) training 30 professionals in international environmental law, to enhance national environmental governance and legislative reforms (19–21 March, Samoa). UNEP also co-hosted the [19th UEF-UNEP Course on MEAs](#) (24 March–2 April) training 22 negotiators from 21 countries on climate change, air pollution, and ozone depletion.

UNEP facilitated a [Technical Workshop on MEAs for SDG Implementation](#) (4–6 March, Botswana) reinforcing national environmental governance strategies and inter-agency collaboration through the Montevideo Programme V.

Updated NBSAP Targets Now in DaRT

UNEP enhanced the [Data Reporting Tool \(DaRT\)](#) to allow direct import of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) from the [CBD Online Reporting Tool](#) (21 March). This upgrade enables automatic integration of national targets with the Kunming-Montreal (KMGBF) supporting improved biodiversity knowledge management and coherent preparation of national reports.

Mainstreaming MEAs in UNCTs for SDG Transitions

UNEP supported the [SADC Workshop on MEA Mainstreaming](#) (4–6 March, Botswana) enhancing technical capacity for integrating MEAs into CCAs and United Nations Cooperation Frameworks (UN-CFs). The workshop strengthened regional cooperation and South-South collaboration while promoting policy coherence.

Environmental Defenders Conference

UNEP co-sponsored the 2025 [International Forest Defenders Conference](#) (19–22 February, Guinea-Bissau) where 110 participants from four continents discussed legal protections for environmental defenders.

UN Common Approaches to Biodiversity and Pollution

UNEP through the EMG, presented the UN Common Approaches at a [workshop](#) (5 March, Botswana) promoting the uptake of the Approaches and their role in implementing the KMGBF and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

UNEP through the EMG, also held a briefing for the UNCT in India, to enhance understanding of UN Common Approaches highlighting ongoing initiatives and the need to map efforts for better synergies (20 February).

African Elephant Fund (AEF)

The AEF—a collaboration venture between thirty-eight African elephant range States, donor States, UNEP, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)—launched its 11th call for proposals (24 January–15 March) to fund projects under the revised African Elephant Action Plan (AEAP 2023). The call was published on [UNEP](#) and [AEF](#) websites and shared via [CITES](#) and other networks.

E. Enabling Subprogrammes

i. Finance and Economic Transformations

UNEP FI Drives Green Finance Initiatives, Human Rights Integration and Responsible Banking

UNEP FI published “[Trends and Innovations in Nature Finance](#)”, spotlighting artificial intelligence (AI) driven tools and the Leveraging Earth Observation for Nature (LEON) project with 40 financial institutions (11 March). UNEP launched 10 case studies and 3 videos on [responsible banking practices](#) (27 March). Additionally, UNEP FI launched, in a webinar, a [Human Rights Toolkit](#) (28 January) and hosted a [Community of Practice on Human Rights](#) session (11 March),

UNEP FI hosted an [Impact Analysis Workshop](#) (18 March, Bogotá, Colombia), training new regional [Principles for Responsible Banking](#) (PRB) members on using [the Impact Analysis Tool](#) to assess portfolio impacts aligned with the (PRB) framework. This followed the launch of the [PRB Academy](#) (20 February, Peru) and the [Environmental & Social Risk Analysis course](#) (10–28 March), to strengthen sustainable banking. Key outcomes include enhanced tools for nature finance, practical guidance on responsible banking, and strengthened human rights integration across finance sectors.

GEF-8 Electric Mobility Programme Launched

UNEP launched the [GEF-8 Electric Mobility Programme](#) at the [Transforming Transportation Conference](#) (13 March, Washington D.C.) to support the global shift to integrated e-mobility systems. The programme builds on GEF-7 and now supports 42 national projects in low- and middle-income countries with over US\$90 million in grants. It emphasizes integration with public transport and renewable energy and introduces a new UNEP-led workstream on EV battery circularity, focusing on reuse, repurposing, and recycling.

Complementing this, the [Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\)](#) Indonesia, in collaboration with the [Directorate of Environmental Affairs of BAPPENAS](#), (20 February, Jakarta) hosted a [Policy Dialogue on Electric Vehicles](#) to accelerate the country's green economy transition. UNEP presented on environmental policy and climate targets, alongside global partners such as [UNDP](#) and [UNIDO](#). The event highlighted the need for policy stability, battery innovation, regional coordination, and regulatory harmonization to support Indonesia's 2025 EV goals.



Policy Dialogue on Electric Vehicles, 20 February, Jakarta
(Photo credit: PT Life Cycle Indonesia)

Consumers rights for a just transition to sustainable lifestyles

UNEP, through the [10YFP Secretariat](#), co-organized two regional dialogues ([Asia, 11 March](#); [LAC, 13 March](#)) and contributed to two global sessions during the virtual [Consumers International Sustainable Lifestyles Summit](#). In line with [UNEA resolution 6.8](#), the dialogues aimed to promote sustainable lifestyles by linking consumer rights, indigenous knowledge, and systemic enablers across high-impact sectors.

UNEP curated the agendas, convened diverse speakers, and participated in global panels. With 150 participants, the dialogues enhanced UNEP's visibility and were recognized by the governments of India and Bolivia. [Key messages](#) called for reliable information, enabling infrastructure, and respect for indigenous values.

Retail4Impact Initiative

[UNEP's One Planet Network Consumer Information Programme](#) launched the [Retail4Impact Initiative](#) via two global virtual webinars (21 January). The objective was to open a Call for Expressions of Interest to engage leading retailers and brand owners in a year-long capacity-building programme on using [UNEP's Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information](#). UNEP structured and coordinated the initiative, co-developing content with over 25 global partners. Over 250 participants joined the webinars. Ten leading retailers were selected for the programme.

Framework for Digital Product Information Systems (DPIS)

UNEP convened [three virtual consultations](#) (13 February, 26 February and 27 March) to refine the [Global Framework for Digital Product Information Systems \(DPIS\)](#). The objective was to gather diverse stakeholder input on data categories and framework structure to support transparency and circular economy goals. Over 80 experts from government, business, academia, and civil society participated.

Key outcomes included strong support for inclusive governance, sector-specific data, and digital tools such as blockchain and AI. UNEP identified the need for greater private sector incentives and follow-up in-person dialogues to enhance real-world relevance and uptake of the framework.

Fiscal Policy Framework to Advance Climate Adaptation

[UNEP](#) and the [University of Oxford](#) co-launched the [Enabling Adaptation Report](#) (30 January) via a global webinar. The report provides a fiscal policy framework to help policymakers align public spending with climate adaptation goals, ensure debt sustainability, and mobilize private capital. UNEP co-developed and disseminated the report, which engaged over 120 global stakeholders and reached Ministries of Finance and development banks. While the virtual format limited interaction, it presented opportunities for UNEP to expand technical support and address data gaps in adaptation finance, reinforcing its leadership in climate-resilient fiscal policy.



Ethical Finance Initiative ASEAN 2025

The fourth edition of the [Ethical Finance ASEAN Summit](#), held virtually (19 February), was organized by UNEP FI in partnership with the ASIAN Institute of Chartered Banker. The theme explored inclusive economic growth, resilience and sustainability in regional finance, green innovation and climate financing, and ASEAN's role in global economic stability. With a strong emphasis on inclusivity, [Ethical Finance ASEAN 2025](#) aligned sustainable finance with ASEAN's unique regional needs, fostered dialogue that empowers diverse stakeholders and ensures equitable progress.

Sustainable Infrastructure Planning and Asset Management

UNEP and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) presented a [roadmap](#) to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (27 March in San José, Costa Rica), developed from a 2024 assessment on sustainable infrastructure planning and asset management. The objective was to provide concrete, actionable steps to strengthen Costa Rica's enabling environment for sustainable and resilient infrastructure systems. UNEP co-led the assessment and roadmap development, facilitating government ownership and uptake of recommendations.

Advancing Circular Economy Finance Training in LAC

UNEP hosted a [virtual meeting](#) (13 March) with Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada under the Environmental Training Network (ETN) to strengthen cooperation on environmental education in Small Island Developing States. That same day in [Montevideo, Uruguay](#), UNEP and [UNEP FI](#) launched

the [Circular Economy Finance Training Programme](#) with [CTCN](#), [LAC Circular Economy Coalition](#), and [BASE](#), enhancing financial institutions' capacity to support circular business models. UNEP met with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth (21 March, [Panama City](#)) to advocate for regional coordination on green jobs, urging stronger youth engagement and integration of environmental priorities in the Latin America and Caribbean youth agenda.

Strengthening Circular Economy Collaboration and Inclusion in LAC

Between February and March, UNEP advanced inclusive and strategic regional cooperation on circular economy in Latin America and the Caribbean. [UNEP](#) co-organized a regional webinar (27 February) on [Financing for Plastics Circularity](#), showcasing public-private financing models from Chile, Ecuador, and Colombia and highlighting opportunities to align policy and investment.

UNEP co-hosted Creators of the Future (19 March,



Webinar Creadoras del futuro mujeres al centro de la economía circular en América Latina y el Caribe

Source: <https://youtu.be/xcFDnqmR4ls>

Haiti), promoting gender equality in circular economy through regional expertise and commitments to improve gender-responsive policies and data. The event highlighted the key role of women in advancing circular economies, improvement of data collection and policy alignment on gender inclusion in circular economy strategies.

Integrating climate in public finance management in Indonesia

UNEP co-organized a case study session during the [Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action \(CFCMA\) Global Deputies Meeting](#) (17–19 February, Yogyakarta, Indonesia). The session aimed to showcase how Ministries of Finance can integrate climate considerations into public financial management using peer learning and real-world examples. UNEP provided technical expertise on sustainable budgeting, facilitated peer exchange, and introduced tools such as the Sustainable Budgeting

Approach. With over 100 participants, the session generated strong interest in further training.

ii. Digital Transformation

Launch of the Coalition for Environmentally Sustainable Artificial Intelligence

UNEP, in partnership with the Government of France and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), collaboratively launched the Coalition for Environmentally Sustainable Artificial Intelligence at AI Action Summit (11 February, Paris). The Coalition brings together over 100 partners—including 37 tech companies, 11 countries, and five international organizations—with the shared goal of ensuring that AI development follows an environmentally sustainable path and maximizes its positive impact on the planet. UNEP played a key role in coordinating stakeholders and shaping the Coalition's agenda, reinforcing the need for global collaboration to address AI's environmental footprint. By uniting actors across the AI value chain, the Coalition sets the stage for ambitious joint initiatives, including the development of guidelines, best practices, and impact assessments that align AI innovation with sustainability goals.

CopernicusLAC Panama Centre Presentation

UNEP coordinated and moderated a virtual session (18 February, Panama City), organized within the framework of UNEP's Regional Environmental Information Network for Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective was to showcase the activities and services of [CopernicusLAC](#) and highlight opportunities for LAC countries to engage with the initiative. The session successfully informed ministries

of environment and statistical offices from Spanish-speaking countries in the region about the services offered by CopernicusLAC, as well as associated capacity-building opportunities. Many countries expressed strong interest in utilizing geospatial data and participating in future training sessions. Looking ahead, there is significant potential for expanded collaboration, including future sessions with Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), joint efforts with CopernicusLAC and the European Space Agency (ESA) to promote new services, and the organization of capacity-building activities tailored to specific country or regional priorities.

Sustainable Industry Lab (SiLAB'25)

UNEP delivered a presentation (27 February), during the Sustainable Industry Lab (SiLAB'25) that emphasized the urgent need to tackle the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution—by leveraging responsible digital innovation. The presentation highlighted UNEP's role in advancing global sustainability efforts through initiatives such as the Global Digital Compact and partnerships like the newly launched Coalition for Environmentally Sustainable AI.

UNEP stressed that the digital transformation should serve as a driver of regeneration, not merely efficiency, and called on stakeholders to align technological advancements with environmental goals. Following SiLAB'25, UNEP was invited to join the Digital for Green (D4G) Strategic Partnership, a collaborative platform that promotes synergies between green transformation and digitalization. This twin transition is expected to deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits by accelerating the adoption of innovative digital solutions for decarbonization, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development.



[CopernicusLAC](#) Panama Centre
(Photo credit: copernicuslac-panama.eu)

F. Cross-cutting Issues

i. Gender

International Women's Day

UNEP together with the Women Leaders Network of the UN system in Nairobi marked [#IWD2025](#) (19 March, Nairobi). The event focused on mentorship, career growth and work-life balance. To commemorate International Women's Day, [inspiring messages](#) and stories were shared spotlighting the laudable role of women in helping [communities adapt to climate change](#), [protecting the Ozone layer](#) and leading the shift to [electric mobility](#). Ahead of Women's day (5 March, Geneva) UNEP and the Minamata Convention on Mercury Secretariat and the Geneva Environment Network organized, [Unmasking Mercury and Colourism](#)



International Women's Day Celebration, 19 March, Nairobi
(Photo credit: UNON)

[in Cosmetics](#), an event highlighting the risk of mercury-added cosmetics.

CITES Gender Action Plan

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat developed a draft [Gender Action Plan](#) during 78th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC78). It will be submitted to COP20.

Global Dialogue: Circular Economy Model of Waste Management

The UNEP-IETC conducted an [Integrated Solid Waste Management towards Zero Waste Dialogue](#) (19 February, Japan). One of the sessions was on gender responsive policies, data collection and monitoring, safety and financial support for women and informal workers, informal sector integration in the waste sector. Other organizers: [Global Environment Centre Foundation](#), [Institute for Global Environmental Strategies](#). *Outcome, inter alia*, recommended mainstreaming gender.

ii. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Project Reviews on gender and safeguards

In the first quarter of 2025, 28 projects and concepts were reviewed for gender, safeguards, stakeholder consultation and human right aspects. Out of these 28 concepts/projects, 64% of the 14 concepts and 42% of the 14 projects were classified as in the moderate risk category.

Some moderate-risk projects have successfully developed the necessary management plans, such as Environmental and Social Management Plans. The early identification of risks has enhanced the development of these plans and improved communication of safeguard risks to relevant stakeholders.

Grievance Case - Nature-related Financial Disclosures

UNEP Finance Initiative (FI) received formal complaints (17 December 2024) from environmental and human rights organizations alleging that its support for the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) undermined and acted against environmental defenders, rights holders, grassroots women's organizations, and civil society groups. The complaints also accused the UNEP of promoting discriminatory practices by failing to uphold basic principles of good governance.

Following a thorough initial assessment of the issues raised in the complaint, UNEP through the Independent Office for Stakeholder Safeguard-related Response (IOSSR) confirmed that the TNFD operates independently, with its own governance and management procedures overseen by a dedicated Secretariat. As a result, the case was closed on 14th February 2025 and the complainants informed accordingly. The case details are recorded in the [UNEP case registry](#).

iii. UN Reform

Updated UN Country Analysis (UNCA) Guidelines

The updated UN Country Analysis (UNCA) (formerly known as [Common Country Analysis](#)) guidelines have introduced key changes that will shape how UNEP engages with UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in designing and developing the next generation of UNCAs. These updates emphasize a more strategic, forward-looking, and solution-oriented approach to country analysis - moving beyond retrospective assessments to focus on pathways for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) acceleration.

To support UNEP UNCT Focal Points in navigating these changes, UNEP hosted a dedicated session (January 2025), highlighting best practices and lessons learned.

Enhancing reporting in UN-info

[UN INFO](#) is part of the United Nations' efforts to improve coherence, transparency, accountability and coordination to better address the needs and priorities in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is an online planning, monitoring and reporting platform that digitizes the UN Country Team's results frameworks (the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework) and beyond.

UNEP launched a coordinated and harmonized approach to enhance efficiency in reporting through UN-INFO (January 2025), ensuring clearer visibility of UNEP's programme implementation within the context of the UN Cooperation Frameworks. As a result of this streamlined process, by 31 March 2025, UNEP successfully reported its contributions to the Cooperation Frameworks for 2024 in 83 countries, strengthening accountability and alignment with UN system-wide planning and delivery.

iv. South-South Cooperation

Circular Economy Coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Latin America and the Caribbean Circular Economy Coalition held a strategic meeting (12 March) with government representatives from the region. The virtual meeting brought together government representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, as well as the European Union (as a regional bloc).

The meeting objective was to enhance South-South collaboration, facilitate the exchange of experiences on circular economy policies maximize impact and

strengthen partnerships across Latin America and the Caribbean. UNEP led discussions on government engagement and offered to disseminate national strategies across the Coalition network. The meeting identified priority areas for collaboration and improved awareness of available Coalition initiatives. It strengthened coordination among ten national governments and the European Union.

G. Opportunities and Lessons Learned

i. Opportunities

Advancing One Health

The Asia Pacific Regional Quadripartite Secretariat in its chairmanship handover (17 March, Bangkok, Thailand), included a review of progress and aligning actions for the coming years to ensure ongoing support for One Health implementation across the region's member states. This provides an opportunity to strengthen cooperation to advance the One Health agenda and support regional priorities.

Additionally, there is [growing evidence](#) that the environment plays a key role in the development, transmission and spread of AMR. The brief on "[Antimicrobial resistance prevention and education in schools: a brief for education policy-makers and school practitioners](#)", emphasizes the need for urgent action and the role of education in a One Health response.

Embedding environmental priorities in Africa's development Agenda

The preparation of the 2027 UNECA-UNEP joint meeting of environment and finance ministers provides an opportunity for UNEP to engage with African Ministers of finance, planning, and economic development, as well as UNECA, leveraging its environmental expertise to support Africa's development agenda. This will be crucial in embedding environmental priorities in Africa's economic planning, including in the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, highlighting the need for sustainable and resilient value chains as well as exploring the potential of artificial intelligence to address the region's rising environmental challenges.

ii. Lessons Learned

Nationally Determined Contributions

The media and UN Information Centres are critical in building national engagement in setting of Nationally Determined Contributions. UNEP learnt that as it continues to drive forward the UN-wide joint advocacy and communication efforts on NDCs 3.0, including

tailored engagement country advocacy, early efforts should be made to engage local media representatives. In response to this lesson, UN Information Centres in Nigeria, South Africa, Mexico, Colombia and Japan were sensitized about the importance of NDCs as blueprints for socioeconomic development at national levels and for delivering the Paris Agreement.

There is need to improve the alignment of NAPs with NDCs at country level. This is crucial to ensure coherence and therefore coordinated action to attract finance from diverse sources. The technical support that can be provided to countries in the region requires greater attention in closing this type of gap when formulating planning tools.

UNI-LEAD Finance Workshop

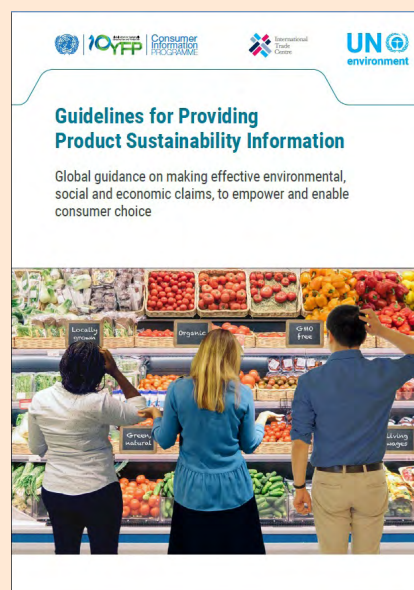
The UNEP implemented, and GEF funded, UNI-LEAD project organized a completion workshop for the project (15-18 February, Kigali, Rwanda). The workshop, focused on lessons learned in establishing climate adaptation think-tanks and the rollout of 5 climate finance courses. Key lessons learned included “start small and grow strategically” which helped think-tanks, supported by government-academia dialogues, remain targeted and responsive to evolving government needs.

Retail4Impact Initiative

UNEP's One Planet Network Consumer Information Programme launched the initiative to engage leading retailers and brand owners in a year-long capacity-building programme on using [UNEP's Guidelines for Providing Product Sustainability Information](#). Lessons highlighted the need for practical case studies and inclusion of consumer perspectives to strengthen green claims.

Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge – GEO-7

Integrating Indigenous knowledge and Local Knowledge provides an opportunity to enrich environmental assessments and policy responses with community-driven insights and culturally relevant approaches. For future GEO-7 report Indigenous



Knowledge and Local Knowledge dialogues, it would be best to secure a budget for the entire process to avoid delays in production or organization of meetings.

Green and Climate Financing

A UNEP FI panel discussion held with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Green and Climate Financing (12 March, New Delhi, India) highlighted fragmented policy landscapes and institutional capacity gaps as key challenges faced by India in its transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. This lesson led UNEP FI to reprioritize its strategies, enhance PSI implementation, and intensify stakeholder consultations for systemic impact.

Sustainable Infrastructure Planning and Asset Management

UNEP and UNOPS presented [a roadmap](#) to Costa Rica's Ministry of Public Works and Transport developed from a 2024 assessment which facilitated government ownership and uptake of recommendations. A key lesson was the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders beyond the main counterpart, given infrastructure's cross-sectoral nature.

3. RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

A. Financial Resources

i. Financial Update as at 31 March 2025

a. Overview of income¹

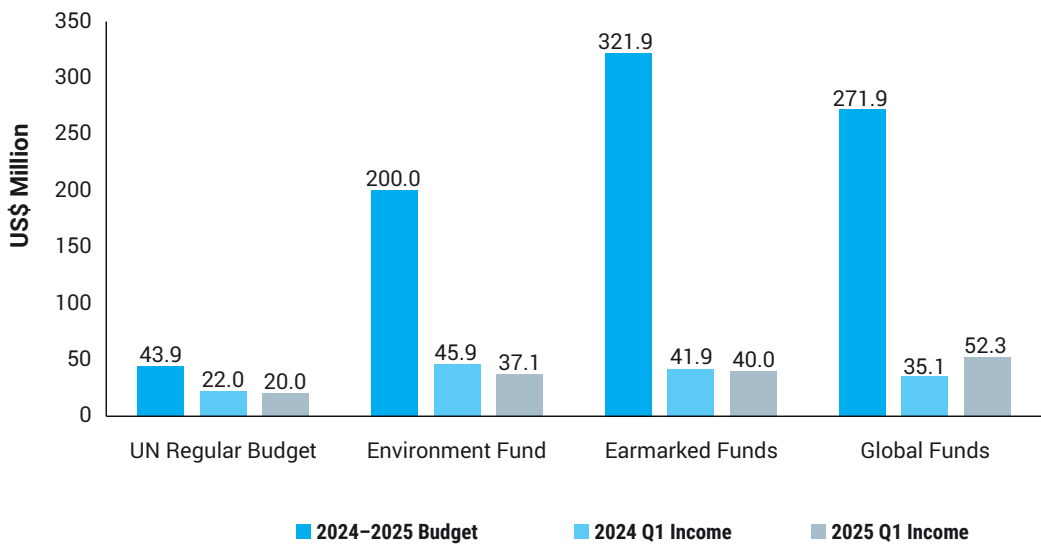
The income for the first quarter of 2025 amounts to \$194.6M compared to \$144.9M for the same period in 2024. The income for the Regular Budget, Environment Fund and Earmarked funds decreased while the Global Fund increased. Against the rapidly evolving financial landscape, UNEP is putting in proactive prudence and efficiency measures to ensure realistic and sustainable budgeting, allocation, and expenditure management while upholding our ambitions.

b. Core funding

(i) The Environment Fund

UNEP is grateful to all of contributors to the Environment Fund with special thanks to the seven Member States that have provided their full share and to the top -10 Member States who have provided income to the environment fund in the first quarter of 2025.

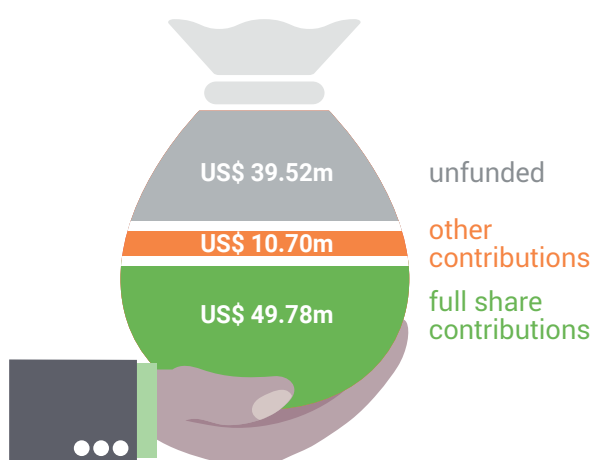
Graph 1: First quarter 2024 and 2025 income compared to the 2024-2025 Programme of Work Budget



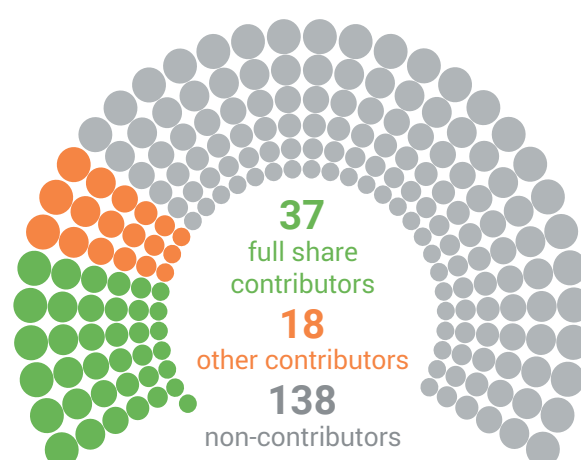
1. The figures do not include conventions and protocols administered by UNEP. Per the United Nations secretariat interpretation and application of the international public service accounting standards (IPSAS), our financial and administrative management platform, Umoja, does not allow a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income.

Graph 2: Status of the Environment Fund in 2025 (as at 31 March 2025)

INCOME vs UNFUNDED BALANCE
of US\$ 100m budget



NUMBER AND CATEGORY OF MEMBER STATE
CONTRIBUTORS out of 193



Furthermore, UNEP appreciates the increased stability and predictability provided by multi-year agreements/pledges from Denmark, Finland, Monaco, Netherlands

and South Africa, which amounted to a total of US\$ 18.8 million or 50% of the environment fund income as of 31 March 2025.

Table 1: Top10 contributors to the Environment Fund in 2025 (as at 31 March 2025)

Member State	USD (Millions)
The Netherlands	9.90
France	7.55
Denmark	7.30
Germany	3.73
Norway	3.00
Canada	2.15
Finland	1.63
Spain	0.54
Austria	0.44
Czechia	0.34

Table 2: Full share contributors to the Environment Fund in 2025 (as at 31 March 2025)

Above and Equal to full share	Status
Czechia	Paid
Denmark	Pledge
France	Paid
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Pledge
Netherlands	Paid
Zambia	Paid
Slovenia	Paid

ii. Comparison with previous years

c. Earmarked contributions

(i) Earmarked and Global funds

Earmarked and Global Fund income continue to be the primary funding source for UNEP, accounting for approximately 86% of its annual income. Member States support in increased contributions to the softly earmarked funds, for example the Planetary Funds, would provide greater flexibility and effectiveness in the use of funds and for more impactful deliveries. UNEP is grateful to all contributors to the Earmarked and Global Funds with special thanks to top 15 contributors during the first quarter of 2025.

(ii) Status of allocations and expenditures as of 31 March 2025

a. Environment fund

The approved budget for the Environment Fund for the 2024–2025 biennium amounts to US\$ 200 million. The initial approved allocation for the biennium is US\$ 175.3 million. As of 31 March 2025, the expenditure represented 68% of the 2024-2025 allotment.

Table 3 - Top 15 donors to earmarked funds in first quarter 2025 compared to first quarter 2024

		First Qtr 2025	First Qtr 2024	
1	Global Funds	52.30	35.10	1
2	UN Agencies *	8.48	8.10	2
3	European Commission	6.54	4.00	6
4	Sweden	5.32	6.80	3
5	Foundations/NGOs	4.95	3.20	7
6	Japan	4.20	6.50	4
7	United Kingdom	3.33	-	
8	Canada	2.52	-	
9	Italy	2.08	-	
10	Australia	1.41	-	
11	Germany	0.95	2.00	8
12	China	0.89	1.2	10
13	UNEP Finance Initiative **	0.73	1.8	9
14	Private Sector	0.63	-	
15	Norway	0.56	6.30	5

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

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

Status of allocations and expenditures – environment fund

Environment Fund (US\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Budget	Allotments	Expenditure as at 31 March 2025	%
A	Policymaking organs	4,000,000	3,996,772	2,649,269	66%
B.1	Executive direction and management	8,000,000	7,889,893	5,193,067	66%
B.2	UNSCEAR	-	-	-	
	Subtotal (A+B)	12,000,000	11,886,665	7,842,336	66%
C	Programme of work				
1	Climate action	24,000,000	18,433,467	12,132,839	66%
2	Digital transformations	14,000,000	12,142,237	10,120,567	83%
3	Nature action	24,000,000	24,843,374	15,115,502	61%
4	Environmental governance	26,000,000	25,219,023	17,924,289	71%
5	Chemicals and pollution action	24,000,000	17,971,917	13,471,035	75%
6	Finance and economic transformations	26,000,000	19,857,317	14,385,046	72%
7	Science-policy	26,000,000	23,280,399	16,274,503	70%
	Subtotal C	164,000,000	141,747,735	99,423,781	70%
D	Fund Programme Reserve	10,000,000	4,766,505	768,941	16%
	Subtotal (C+D)	174,000,000	146,514,240	100,192,722	68%
E	Programme Support	14,000,000	15,686,882	10,540,983	67%
1	UNCT engagement		-		
2	Emergency Fund		700,000	528,636	76%
3	UNEA Implementation		500,000	143,905	29%
	Subtotal E		16,886,882	11,213,523	66%
Total A+B+C+D+E		200,000,000	175,287,787	119,248,581	68%

b. Overhead trust fund

Income in the overhead trust fund is generated from programme support costs earned through extrabudgetary project implementation and is used to cover essential administrative and operational expenses. The allotment for the 2024-2025 biennium is US\$ 52.9 million, compared to the biennium

budget of US\$ 32 million. This reflects a high volume of extrabudgetary project implementation in the previous biennium, which generated a higher amount of programme support costs and enabled a larger allotment for the 2024-2025 biennium. As of 31 March 2025, expenditure was 51% of the 2024-2025 allotment.

Status of allocations and expenditures – overhead trust fund

Overhead Trust Fund (US\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Budget	Allotments	Expenditure as at 31 March 2025	%
A	Policymaking organs	20,000	68,560	206	0.3%
B.1	Executive direction and management	-	147,131	74,610	50.7%
B.2	UNSCEAR	-	-	-	
	Subtotal (A+B)	20,000	215,691	74,816	35%
C	Programme of work				
1	Climate action	4,500,000	5,742,142	1,982,787	35%
2	Digital transformations	1,300,000	620,445	-	0%
3	Nature action	2,400,000	2,843,759	2,037,742	72%
4	Environmental governance	1,300,000	4,005,724	2,940,650	73%
5	Chemicals and pollution action	3,100,000	3,572,647	1,597,999	45%
6	Finance and economic transformations	2,500,000	2,161,342	865,158	40%
7	Science-policy	700,000	992,892	393,306	40%
	Subtotal C	15,800,000	19,938,951	9,817,642	49%
D	Fund Programme Reserve	-	-	-	
	Subtotal (C+D)	15,800,000	19,938,951	9,817,642	49%
E	Programme Support	16,200,000	32,807,927	16,855,482	51%
1	UNCT engagement				
2	Emergency Fund		-		
3	UNEA Implementation				
	Subtotal E	16,200,000	32,807,927	16,855,482	51%
Total A+B+C+D+E		32,020,000	52,962,569	26,747,940	51%

c. Regular budget

The Regular Budget allotment by UNHQ for 2024-2025 is \$40.2 million, \$6.3 million short of the approved budget due to liquidity challenges across the

United Nations. This decrease necessitated careful expenditure management. As at 31 March 2025, the expenditure rate is 64%.

Status of allocations and expenditures – regular budget

Regular Budget (US\$)					
	Functional Area Name	Budget	Allotments	Expenditure as at 31 March 2025	%
A	Polymaking organs	940,600	578,150	463,300	80%
B.1	Executive direction and management	6,266,400	6,244,038	4,020,551	64%
B.2	UNSCAR	2,216,200	1,716,325	878,004	51%
	Subtotal (A+B)	9,423,200	8,538,513	5,361,855	63%
C	Programme of work				
1	Climate action	4,196,900	3,691,465	2,747,596	74%
2	Digital transformations	3,049,000	2,399,892	1,089,182	45%
3	Nature action	5,000,600	4,091,271	2,581,386	63%
4	Environmental governance	9,137,600	8,209,855	5,492,385	67%
5	Chemicals and pollution action	3,431,400	3,135,991	2,048,961	65%
6	Finance and economic transformations	3,858,500	3,212,709	1,880,957	59%
7	Science-policy	6,219,000	4,926,692	3,269,254	66%
	Subtotal C	34,893,000	29,667,876	19,109,721	64%
D	Fund Programme Reserve	-	-	-	
	Subtotal (C+D)	34,893,000	29,667,876	19,109,721	64%
E	Programme Support	2,175,100	1,959,211	1,100,930	56%
1	UNCT engagement				
2	Emergency Fund		-		
3	UNEA Implementation				
	Subtotal E	2,175,100	1,959,211	1,100,930	56%
Total A+B+C+D+E		46,491,300	40,165,600	25,572,506	64%

d. Earmarked funds

Earmarked income for the period January 2024 to March 2025 exceeded the approved budget enabling higher allocations and implementation. The highest

areas of implementation include Environmental Governance, Chemicals and Pollution and Science Policy.

Status of allocations and expenditures – earmarked funds

Earmarked Budgets and Global Funds (US\$)				
	Functional Area Name	Budget	Expenditure as at 31 March 2025	%
A	Policymaking organs	500,000	229,796	46%
B.1	Executive direction and management	1,400,000	941,656	67%
B.2	UNSCEAR		-	
	Subtotal (A+B)	1,900,000	1,171,452	62%
C	Programme of work			
1	Climate action	194,400,000	265,195,890	136%
2	Digital transformations	26,800,000	1,292,903	5%
3	Nature action	173,200,000	146,872,989	85%
4	Environmental governance	27,100,000	52,411,741	193%
5	Chemicals and pollution action	94,400,000	105,388,816	112%
6	Finance and economic transformations	49,700,000	42,052,233	85%
7	Science-policy	16,700,000	18,683,141	112%
	Subtotal C	582,300,000	631,897,714	109%
D	Fund Programme Reserve	-	-	
	Subtotal (C+D)	582,300,000	631,897,714	109%
E	Programme Support	9,600,000	8,925,725	93%
1	UNCT engagement			
2	Emergency Fund			
3	UNEA Implementation			
	Subtotal E	9,600,000	8,925,725	93%
Total A+B+C+D+E		593,800,000	641,994,890	108%

e. Planetary funds

The authorized budget is in line with the funds received to date for the funds. The allotments are approved by the Budget Steering Committee based on input from

the Sub-Programme Coordinators. Implementation rates are carefully monitored and adjusted to ensure that disbursements are utilized within a maximum expenditure period of 24 months.

Status of allocations and expenditures – planetary funds

Level	Authorized Budget	Allotments	Expenditure as at 31 March 2025	%
A Climate	12,749,155	10,245,398	7,551,126	74%
B Nature	8,035,581	8,146,209	6,976,228	86%
C Pollution	8,216,422	5,888,834	4,553,102	77%
Total A + B + C	29,001,158	24,280,441	19,080,457	79%

ii. Report on management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

The number of trust funds closed remains at 39, reflecting continued efforts to streamline UNEP's trust fund portfolio in line with UNEA decision 3/3 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions. Since UNEA-6, UNEP has successfully closed several inactive trust funds, with six more scheduled for closure in early 2025. Meanwhile, a new trust fund—the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)—is being established following its approval by the GEF Council in June 2023, with ongoing arrangements for its financial administration currently underway.

iii. Resource mobilization strategy

During the first quarter of the year, the Secretariat has analysed the rapidly changing global funding situation, especially given the severe liquidity crisis currently being faced by the UN. This analysis will influence the revision of the resource mobilization strategy, which will be updated alongside the new Medium-Term Strategy (2026-2029) to diversify our funding streams with UNEP value propositions.

Reporting on the 2024 income was done in the first quarter in both the UNEP [Annual Report \(2024\)](#), and the [Environment Fund status report](#). Outreach materials, such as the booklet [UNEP, "Your Partner for People and Planet"](#), and the [Frequently Asked Questions on the Environment Fund](#) have been updated to 2025 editions. All language versions can be found [on the website](#).

B. Human Resources

General overview

As of 31 March 2025, UNEP employed 1401 staff members, reflecting an increase of 18 positions from the previous quarter. The workforce is comprised of:

- 848 staff (60%) in the professional and higher categories
- 11 staff (<1%) in the National Professional Officer (NPO) category
- 542 staff (39%) in the general service category

The Secretariat employs 1,104 staff members (79% of UNEP's total workforce), while the MEAs employ 297 staff members (21%) of the total. This structure underscores UNEP's dual administrative and programmatic framework, where the Secretariat manages core operational and policy functions, while the MEA Secretariats serve as entities supporting international environment agreements under the authority of their respective Conference of Parties.

Senior level staff (UNEP secretariat and MEAs)

At the P-5 level and above, the number of staff decreased slightly from 186 in 2024 to 184 in quarter 1 of 2025 due to some separations at the D1 and P5 levels.

Level	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Number of Staff (Q1-2025)	1	3	11	48	121	184
Number of Staff (Q4-2024)	1	3	10	50	122	186

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

A further breakdown highlights that the Secretariat holds 144 of these positions, while MEAs account for 40 senior roles as of 31 March.

	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	Total
Secretariat	1	2	7	41	93	144
MEAs		1	4	7	28	40

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

i. Appointments – P5 and above

In the first quarter of 2025, UNEP filled three senior-level positions across its divisions and offices, strengthening its leadership capacity and operational effectiveness. At the D1 level, an external candidate was appointed as Chief of Service, Programme Management from the Asia Pacific Group. At the P5 level, an internal candidate for the position of Senior Administrative Officer from the African Group was appointed and an external candidate from Latin America and the Caribbean Group was appointed for the position of Senior Coordination Officer.

Position Title	Grade	Geographical Group	Internal/ External
Chief of Service; Programme Management	D-1	Asia Pacific Group	External
Senior Administrative Officer	P-5	African Group	Internal
Senior Coordination Officer	P-5	Latin America & Caribbean	External

ii. Gender distribution

a. Gender distribution: UNEP status (January to March 2025)

As of March 31, 2025, UNEP employed 1,104 staff members, with 63% (879) female and 37% (522) male representation across all categories. This overall distribution has remained stable compared to previous years.

At the professional and higher levels (P+), women account for 58% (489) of staff, while men represent 42% (359). In the General Service category, female staff make up 71% (386), while male staff account for 29% (156).

b. UNEP Secretariat

Within the UNEP Secretariat, females occupy 59% (394) of professional and higher-level positions (P+), while males make up 41% (277). The gender distribution in the general service category is composed of 70% (296) female and 30% (126) male representation.

c. Multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Within the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), women make up 54% (95) of staff at the professional and higher levels (P+), while men account for 46% (82). At the General Service level, 76% (92) of GS staff are women.

UNEP												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NO	Total GS	Total Staff
Female	1	3	8	27	63	156	153	78	489	4	386	879
Male	0	0	3	21	58	130	106	41	359	7	156	522
Totals	1	3	11	48	121	286	259	119	848	11	542	1401

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

UNEP SECRETARIAT												
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	5	21	48	126	128	63	394	4	294	692
Male			2	20	45	108	77	25	277	7	128	412
Total	1	2	7	41	93	234	203	88	671	11	422	1104

UNEP MEAs											
Gender	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2	Total P+	Total GS	Total
Female		1	3	6	15	30	25	15	95	92	187
Male			1	1	13	22	29	16	82	28	110
Total		1	4	7	28	52	54	31	177	120	297

iii. Geographical representation

a. Geographical representation: progression over the years

As of 31 March 2025, UNEP staff members represent a range of nationalities, reflecting the organization's commitment to geographical balance and global representation. The total number of staff increased by 18 compared to the previous quarter.

b. Geographical representation of UNEP staff

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

c. 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 March 31, 2025. The Western European and Other Group (WEOG) represents 37% of the staff and 23% of selections at the professional and higher levels for quarter 1, 2025. While this is comparable to the GRULAC region regarding selections, both groups are surpassed by the Eastern European Group. The USA representation ranks lowest on a regional basis; however, it holds the fourth-largest overall representation of Professional and higher-level staff within UNEP. Notably, the USA has the highest number of staff in senior positions (P5 and above), tied with the UK.

Region	Total as of 31 December 2024	Total as of 31 March 2025	Variation
African Group	466	470	+4
Asia Pacific Group	258	262	+4
Eastern European Group	61	65	+4
Latin American and Caribbean Group	132	136	+4
Stateless	1	1	0
United States of America	41	40	-1
Western European and Others Group	424	427	+3
Total	1383	1401	+18

Region	UNEP Secretariat	MEA	Total UNEP
African Group	422	48	470
Asia Pacific Group	211	51	262
Eastern European Group	50	15	65
Latin American and Caribbean Group	111	25	136
Stateless	0	1	1
United States of America	32	8	40
Western European and Others Group	278	149	427
Total	1104	297	1401

UNEP regional representation of staff – Professional level											
Regional Distribution	Professional level and above								Total Dec 2024	Total Mar 2025	Variation
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2			
African Group		1	3	4	28	58	55	17	165	166	+1
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	11	20	56	60	36	187	187	0
Eastern European Group				4	10	15	12	11	48	52	+4
Latin American & Caribbean Group			2	5	17	24	32	9	87	89	+2
Stateless								1	1	1	0
United States of America				7	5	12	12	1	38	37	-1
Western European & Others Group	1	1	3	17	41	121	88	44	314	316	+2
Total	1	3	11	48	121	286	259	119	840	848	+8

Data overview by UNEP Secretariat and MEAs

Region	P5 and above in UNEP Secretariat	P5 and above in MEAs	Total UNEP
Africa Group	26	10	36
Asia Pacific Group	25	10	35
Eastern European Group	12	2	14
Latin American Caribbean Group	18	6	24
United States of America	8	4	12
Western European & Others Group	55	8	63

d. Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) in UNEP

UNEP's JPO programme currently engages 42 JPOs.

Country of Sponsorship	Female	Male	Total
Germany	9	1	10
Japan	5	3	8
People's Republic of China	7	-	7
France	3	-	3
Italy	2	1	3
Rep. of Korea	1	2	3
Netherlands (Bangladeshi)	1	-	1
Belgium	-	1	1
United Kingdom	1	-	1
Finland	1	-	1
Norway	1	-	1
United States of America	1	-	1
Sweden	1	-	1
Switzerland		1	1
Total	33	9	42

iv. Funding of staff positions

UNEP's staffing structure as of 31 March 2025, reflects a strategic approach to resource management and operational efficiency, with 1,401 staff members funded through four primary sources: the Environment Fund, Earmarked Contributions, Programme Support Cost (PSC), and the Regular Budget. This funding distribution highlights UNEP's ability to balance flexibility and targeted resource allocation to deliver on its mandate effectively.

The Environment Fund, UNEP's core flexible resource, supports 413 staff members (30%), ensuring critical operational capacity. Earmarked Contributions, which account for 768 staff members (55%), provide targeted funding for specific projects and programs, demonstrating UNEP's success in mobilising donor-restricted resources. The PSC mechanism funds 129 staff members (9%), while the Regular Budget supports 91 staff members (6%).

A closer look shows that the UNEP Secretariat employs 1,104 staff (79% of UNEP's total workforce), while Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) account for 297 staff (21%). Within the Secretariat, funding is distributed across Earmarked Contributions (507 staff), the Environment Fund (413 staff), and the Regular Budget (91 staff). MEAs rely heavily on voluntary funding, with nearly 90% of their workforce financed through Trust Funds.

v. UNEP talent management strategy

In the first quarter of 2025, UNEP intensified its talent outreach initiatives, leveraging both established and innovative platforms to strengthen its employer brand and attract top-tier candidates. Six targeted outreach activities—two in-person and four online—were conducted, engaging over 900 participants. Notably, two of these events were organized at the invitation of Member States, and one in-person event was facilitated by a Member State Permanent Mission, underscoring UNEP's collaborative approach and its intent to harness the knowledge, networks, and resources of Member States and international partners.

A key milestone in this reporting period was the onboarding of eleven new members to the second cohort of the Young Talent Pipeline. This initiative is strategically designed to provide early-career professionals from underrepresented regions with opportunities to build critical technical skills and contribute meaningfully to UNEP's mandate. Such pipeline programs are recognized as best practice for building sustainable talent ecosystems and ensuring a robust succession of high-performing staff. This second cohort includes candidates from Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Lithuania, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador and Peru.

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	9	42	107	224	199	93	677	11	416	1104
Environment Fund (EF)		1	3	25	55	82	53	12	231	2	180	413
Earmarked Contributions (XB)			2	7	26	98	121	78	332	8	167	507
Programme Support Costs (OTA)				1	6	13	13	3	36	1	56	93
Regular Budget (RB)	1	1	4	9	20	31	12		78	0	13	91
MEA		1	4	7	30	52	54	30	178	0	119	297
Trust Funds (XB)		1	4	7	27	48	52	29	168	0	93	261
Programme Support Costs (OTA)					3	4	2	1	10	0	26	36
Grand Total	1	3	13	49	137	276	253	123	855	11	535	1401

C. Audits

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

a. Completed audits

OIOS completed its audit of the climate action subprogramme at UNEP and recommended that UNEP should assess the feasibility of including performance indicators and emission targets in its medium-term strategy and programme of work for review and adoption by the United Nations Environment Assembly, analyze and address the root causes of delays in commencement of implementation of climate action projects, ensure that due diligence assessments are performed and documented in all cases, strengthen its mechanisms for engagement with implementing partners to proactively address procurement delays, and develop a plan and monitoring mechanism for timely evaluation and management review of climate action projects.

b. Audits in progress and planned

The audit of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is ongoing. The audit of the Early Warning and Assessment Division is planned for 2025.

c. Implemented audits

The audit of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is now considered closed.

D. Evaluations

i. UNEP evaluations

a. Overview of Completed and Ongoing Processes

The formative evaluation of the UNEP Delivery Model and associated Programmatic Approach was completed in December 2024; the management response is being finalised. Six independent project Terminal Evaluations and three Performance Assessments were completed; six management-led project Terminal Reviews were completed and validated; two strategic evaluations of the Chemicals & Pollution Action and Nature Action Subprogrammes are ongoing; and 30 project evaluations are currently ongoing. The evaluations of the two Subprogrammes (Chemicals and Pollution Action and Nature Action) are in the data collection and inception stages, respectively. It is anticipated that the two reports will be ready in late 2025 and early 2026.

b. Completed Independent Terminal Evaluations (TE) and Performance Assessments

Project Title	Performance Rating	No. Rec's	Report Link
TE: The Wadi El Ku Catchment Management Project - Phase 2 (PIMS ID 01990)	Satisfactory	4	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47182
TE: Capacity Building for National and Regional Environmental Information and Knowledge Management (PIMS ID 02020)	Satisfactory	6	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47243
TE: Secretariat Services to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (PIMS ID 02005)	Satisfactory	6	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47207
TE: Adapting to Climate Change in the Lake Victoria Basin (Adaptation Fund)	Satisfactory	5	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47266
TE: European Union Partnership Instrument (EUPI) grant The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity: Promoting a sustainable agriculture and food sector (the grant contributed to the UNEP project Valuing the Essentials - PIMS ID 2026)	Satisfactory	12	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47273
TE: Generating Enhanced Political Will for Natural Resource Management and Conservation (GEF ID 9678)	Moderately Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47186

Project Title	Performance Rating	No. Rec's	Report Link
Performance Assessment: Support Program for Watershed Management through Strengthening Sustainable Value Chains in the Department of the South, Haiti (PIMS ID 02013)	Moderately Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47204
Performance Assessment: Engaging Policy Makers and the Judiciary to Address Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa (GEF ID 5821)	Moderately Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47099 (Combined report for GEF 5821 & 9882)
Performance Assessment: Enhancing Legislative, Policy, and Criminal Justice Frameworks for Combating Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Africa (GEF ID 9882)	Moderately Satisfactory	3	https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/47099 (Combined report for GEF 5821 & 9882)

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

Project Title	Validated Performance Rating	Report Link
MLTR: Up-scaling Community Resilience through Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (PIMS ID 2023)	Highly Satisfactory	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/46861
MLTR: Leapfrogging Chilean's markets to more efficient refrigerator and freezers (GEF ID 9496)	Highly Satisfactory	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47054
MLTR: Building National and Regional Capacity to Implement Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) by Strengthening Planning and State of Environment Assessment and Reporting in the Pacific (GEF ID 5195)	Satisfactory	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/46869
MLTR: Capacity Building for Burkina Faso's transparency system for climate change mitigation and adaptation (GEF ID 10025)	Satisfactory	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/46848
MLTR: Coherent Integration of the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals in Regional and National Policy Frameworks in Africa (PIMS ID 2086)	Satisfactory	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47053
MLTR: Conservation of Key, Endemic, Threatened and Economically Valuable Species (GEF ID 5352)	Satisfactory	https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/47098

d. Opportunities, challenges, lessons learned, and actions taken

The nine project-level performance assessments completed in this quarter reflect the wide technical and geographic range of UNEP's work. While all projects performed in the satisfactory range, five Terminal Evaluations (55%) confirmed strong performance with ratings at the 'Satisfactory' level. Three of the processes are identified as Performance Assessments because they faced challenges that limited the scope of evidence that could be gathered. The projects were awarded 'Moderately Satisfactory' ratings.

Among the six projects assigned to have their performance assessed through a validated Management Led Terminal Review, two (33%) showed high performance levels and their ratings of 'Highly Satisfactory' were validated by the Evaluation Office.

The characteristics of the projects assigned to evaluation and management led review processes do vary, and will, therefore, always show different patterns of performance. Data from the two groups are being collected and will be reported on, at the aggregate level, in the next Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report (2024-25), due in early 2026. An analysis of the differences between the two groups will be presented.



QUARTERLY REPORT

to the **170th** Meeting of the

COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

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