

Programme Performance Report

2024

UN environment programme

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2024

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Foreword

Message from the Executive Director



The Year 2024 brought both successes and disappointments in global efforts to tackle the triple environmental planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change; the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss and desertification; and the crisis of pollution and waste.

At the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 16) in Cali, Colombia, nations agreed to formally recognize and expand the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in saving biodiversity and to operationalize a mechanism to share benefits from digital genetic information. However, issues around resource mobilization and a monitoring framework were carried over to the resumed session scheduled for February 2025. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, nations agreed on international carbon market standards and promised to triple the amount of financing for developing nations hit by climate change—but this commitment fell short of what many countries had called for. In Busan, Republic of Korea, nations made substantial progress towards a global instrument to end plastic pollution, with emerging convergence on 29 out of 32 articles—but talks were adjourned without a final text being agreed. Countries will now need to work on bridging their differences to meet the aspirations of the 2022 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution to end plastic pollution. At the United Nations (UN) conference on land and desertification in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, nations launched the Riyadh Action Agenda, committing US$12 billion for land restoration and drought resilience initiatives, and for the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership. Nevertheless, they were unable to agree on a legally binding protocol to address drought, which has plagued countries across the world, from Africa and Asia to Latin America and Europe.

So, the reality is that environmental multilateralism is sometimes messy and sometimes arduous. But even in complex geopolitical times, collaboration across borders and across our differences is the only option we have to protect the foundation of humanity's existence—Planet Earth. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) calls for a dramatic uptick in ambition and action in the coming year. Nations must promise and deliver huge cuts to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). They must start delivering the necessary finance for climate adaptation and for desertification and biodiversity action. And in the lead-up to UNEA-7 in December 2025, they must work towards agreeing on a strong instrument to end plastic pollution.

As this annual report shows, UNEP has been working tirelessly to help create a broad tent for this to happen. UNEP's science has laid out exactly what nations need to do in their NDCs and supported many nations in preparing these pledges. UNEP is providing crucial data to support nations and companies as they act on methane emissions, with real success. UNEP is providing finance and technical support on everything from ecosystem restoration to clean air. UNEP is working with the private sector to align businesses and financing with action on the triple planetary environmental crisis. And projects that UNEP supports are making a tangible difference in the lives of people around the world from Kenya to Mexico to Niue, enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerabilities.

But humanity is not out of the woods. Temperatures are rising. Ecosystems are disappearing. And pollution remains a deadly threat. These are global problems that require global solutions. The world must pull together to build a fairer, more sustainable planet. And UNEP will be there to support countries every step of the way.

Inger Andersen
UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director

Highlights



Fast-tracking reductions in methane emission:
Through the Methane Alert and response System, UNEP accelerated global methane reduction—supporting five countries and alerting 29 governments to 1,700 major methane plumes.



Greening our Cities
The Landmark From Grey to Green report helped galvanize action and investment in urban nature-based solutions, calling for smarter data and greener infrastructure.



Tackling toxins and waste:
UNEP drove global efforts to curb chemical and waste pollution—advancing the Global Framework on Chemicals, plastic treaty negotiations and joint action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



Embedding the environment in development:
Nine countries integrated bold environmental goals into their UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, guided by UNEP's expertise.



Empowering nations to meet environmental commitments:
UNEP supported 70 countries in meeting biodiversity commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and 107 other countries in fulfilling their obligations to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).



Catalysing climate finance:
UNEP unlocked US$165 million in project funding and helped steer US$175 billion in financial assets toward low-carbon investments.



Digital Accelerator Lab:
UNEP launched a digital innovation platform that leverages technology and data to achieve environmental goals.



Mainstreaming biodiversity worldwide:
With new tools and guidance, UNEP and partners accelerated the integration of biodiversity into national policies, promoting nature as being central to development planning

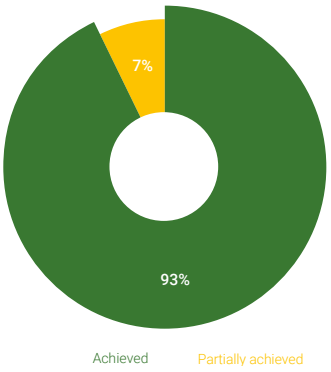


Greening the UN System:
The Sustainable UN (SUN) initiative launched a unified environmental data platform, boosting accountability, reporting and collaboration across the UN System.

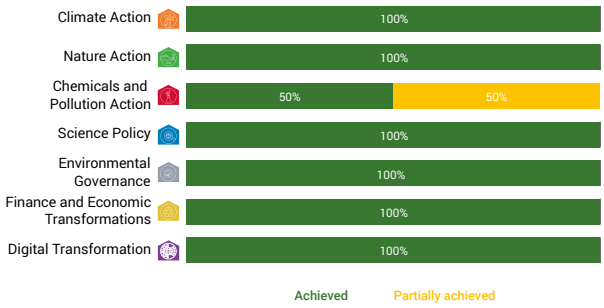


Gender integration:
Having met or exceeded 94 per cent of the gender equality targets of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), UNEP continued to lead by example in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

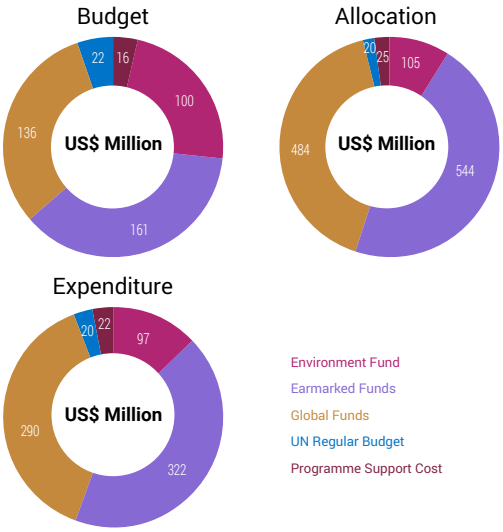
2024 Performance overview achievement of indicator targets



2024 Subprogramme performance summary

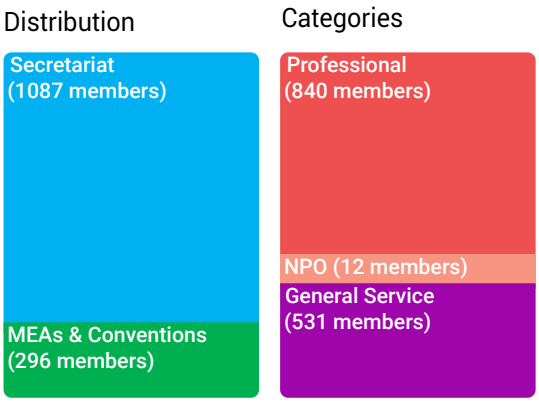


Financial Overview



Human Resources

1383 Committed UNEP staff



Top 15 contributors to earmarked funds

Member States	US$*
Norway	12.2
Netherlands	10.3
Germany	8.0
France	7.6
Denmark	7.4
United States of America	7.2
Sweden	5.1
United Kingdom	4.7
Belgium	4.3
Switzerland	3.8
Italy	3.3
Canada	2.3
Finland	1.6
Japan	1.4
Spain	1.4

*in US$ millions

Top 15 contributors to the environment fund

Funding partners	US$*
Global Environment Facility	320.1
UN bodies	95.2
Green Climate Fund	83.6
Germany	47.8
European Commission	37.6
UNEP Finance Initiative	22.9
United States of America	10.6
Denmark	9.1
Japan	8.5
Sweden	7.6
Italy	5.9
Foundation/NGOs	5.2
Switzerland	5.0
United Kingdom	4.1
Belgium	3.4

*in US$ millions



(©UNEP/ Stephanie Foote)

1 Introduction

At the end of the first year of the second biennium of the 2022 – 2025 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), the 2024 Programme Performance Report (PPR) provides an opportunity for UNEP and its stakeholders to reflect on achievements, draw lessons and identify adaptive measures to guide future action, including the development of the next MTS.

The PPR reviews UNEP's progress in addressing the three planetary environmental crises—climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. The UN Environment Assembly extended the term of the programme of work (PoW) for the period 2022 – 2023 by two years to the end of 2025, with the budget and targets prorated accordingly. This report presents UNEP's 2024 achievements as integrated results focused on three interconnected strategic objectives:

- climate stability, where net zero greenhouse gas emissions and resilience in the face of climate change are achieved;
- living in harmony with nature, where humanity prospers in harmony with nature; and
- towards a pollution-free planet, where pollution is prevented and controlled, and good environmental quality and improved health and well-being are ensured for all.

Seven subprogrammes contributed to the results under these three strategic objectives. They consist of three thematic subprogrammes: Climate Action, Nature Action and Chemicals and Pollution Action; two foundational subprogrammes: Science-Policy and Environmental Governance; and two enabling subprogrammes: Finance and Economic Transformations and Digital Transformations. Section two details the progress on the three strategic objectives while Section three details the contributions of the foundational and enabling subprogrammes.

Alongside the programmatic achievements, the report also highlights performance on organizational effectiveness, efficiency and oversight, reflected in the Leadership, Management and Programme Support sections of the PoW.

UNEP's drive for improvement and commitment to results-based management led to more streamlined internal structures and processes, as elaborated in Section four, Fit for purpose. To effectively implement the transformative Programme of Work, UNEP consolidated significant business transformations. For example, during 2024, the Independent Evaluation Office completed a formative evaluation of UNEP's delivery model policy which had been rolled out to enable UNEP to help countries respond more effectively to the three planetary environmental crises. Planetary funds continued to grow, enhancing UNEP's capacity to deliver results. Section five, A worthwhile investment, outlines the financial and human resources behind UNEP's achievements.

The report portrays a lean and nimble organization dedicated to working with diverse partners to address the three planetary environmental crises and promote sustainable development.

2024 results at a glance

UNEP's performance is assessed against outcomes in its PoW for 2024, enabling the organization, its Governing Bodies and its stakeholders to recognize successes, find room for improvement and guide future work.

Thematic performance

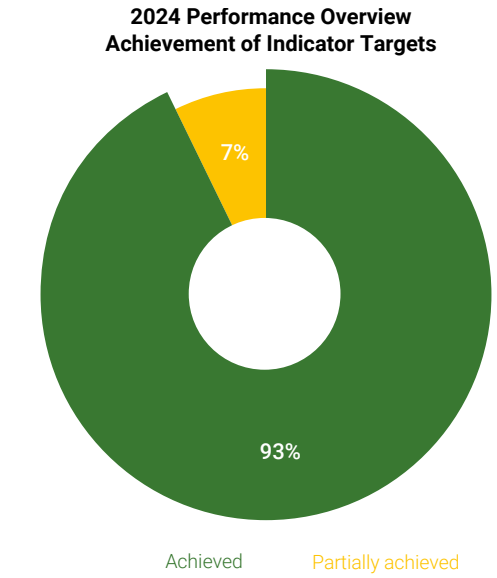


Fig. 1: Overview of thematic indicator targets achievement, 2024

Of the 27 thematic subprogramme indicators for December 2024, 25 indicators (93 per cent) fully attained their targets while two indicators (seven per cent) partially attained their targets.

Performance at the mid-point of the current PoW biennium (2024–2025) shows marked improvement compared to the mid-point of the 2022–2023 biennium. The proportion of fully achieved indicator targets increased by 17 percentage points, rising from 76 per cent in December 2022 to 93 per cent in December 2024. Notably, the share of indicator targets not achieved fell to 0 per cent in December 2024, down from eight per cent in December 2022.

Across subprogramme areas, performance was strong. Six of the seven areas—Climate Action, Nature Action, Environmental Governance, Science-Policy, Finance and Economic Transformation, and Digital Transformation—fully attained all their indicator targets for 2024. Annex I provides further details on subprogramme indicator performance.

Key impediments to full target achievement included political instability in some partner countries and challenges related to indicator design and reporting. Conversely, indicators that met or exceeded targets benefited from effective partnerships, supportive public policies, shifts in public behaviour, new technology or innovation and indicator design. Unlike in previous biennia, additional earmarked funding was not reported as a primary driver of overachievement.

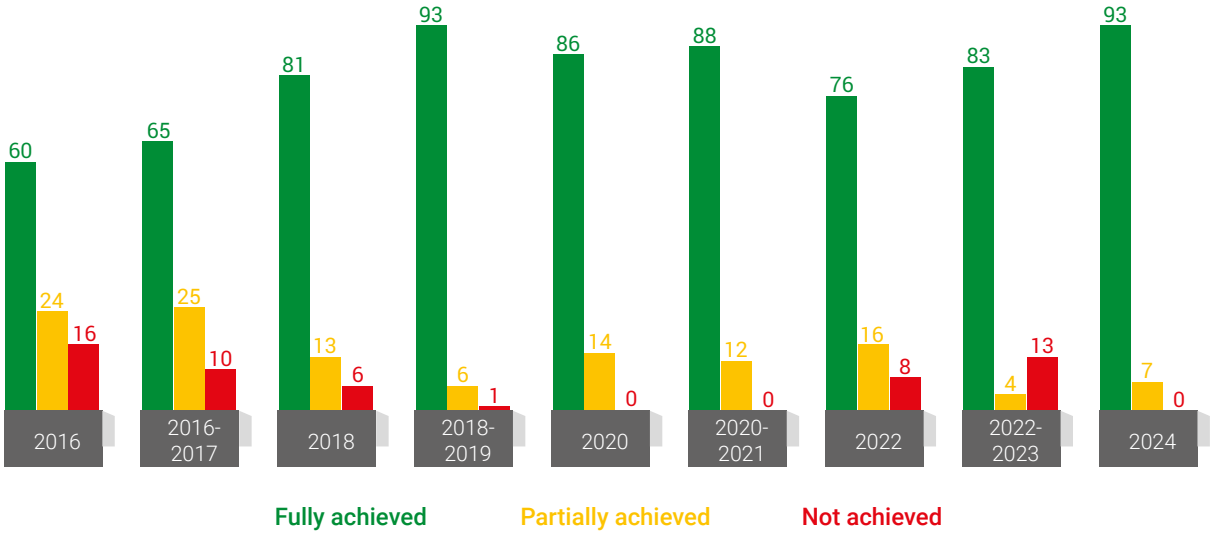


Fig. 2: Performance trends of indicator targets achievement, 2016–2024

Leadership, oversight and programme management

UNEP's results framework for this section includes 21 indicators from the 2022–2023 PoW, designed to track progress across eight outcomes related to organizational effectiveness and efficiency. The indicators comprise four outcomes under Executive Direction and Management, two under Policymaking Organs and four under Programme Management and Support. Together, the indicators make it possible to carry out targeted monitoring and reporting as UNEP delivers on both its programmatic ambitions and fiduciary responsibilities.

In the pro-rated PoW 2024–2025, the results framework retained all existing indicators but extended their targets over the two-year period. Comprehensive reporting is scheduled at the end of the biennium.

Strong performance was recorded in leading change to address the three planetary environmental crises, advancing gender equality and in project evaluation ratings. The sixth United Nations Environment Assembly was the most attended Assembly to date. Over 5,600 participants—including 12 world leaders, 1,683 delegates from 161 Member States and Observers—and 1,032 representatives of Major Groups and stakeholders participated.

For the third consecutive year, UNEP met or exceeded 94 per cent of UN-SWAP 2.0 indicator targets. The UN-SWAP is a UN system-wide accountability framework designed to measure, monitor and drive progress towards a common set of standards for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In 2024, 53 per cent of the projects evaluated received an overall project performance rating of "satisfactory" or better. Meanwhile, 89.6 per cent of UNEP projects classified as moderate risk demonstrated that they had integrated Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) into their risk-management processes at the design stage, as assessed using the Safeguards Risk Identification Form.

Areas where improvements were needed included enhancing coordination across the UN System and timely closure of audit recommendations. Annex II provides a results statement on UNEP's 2024 performance against organizational effectiveness and efficiency indicators.

At the conclusion of the first year of the 2024 – 2025 biennium, this report provides lessons learnt from overall PoW implementation. Including the experience of pro-rated indicator assessment will inform ongoing efforts to strengthen measurement frameworks for future Programmes of Work.



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2

Tackling the three planetary environmental crises: progress on the three strategic objectives

A. Climate stability

"TThe comprehensive review of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory estimations across sectors, insightful comments and recommendations, and the one-on-one sessions with sector-specific experts significantly enhanced the quality and accuracy of our report."

Rauf Hajiyev, Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources, the Republic of Azerbaijan, 17/2/2025

i. Context

UNEP supports countries to transition to low-emission economic development pathways and enhance their adaptation and resilience to climate change. Its work focuses on three areas below.

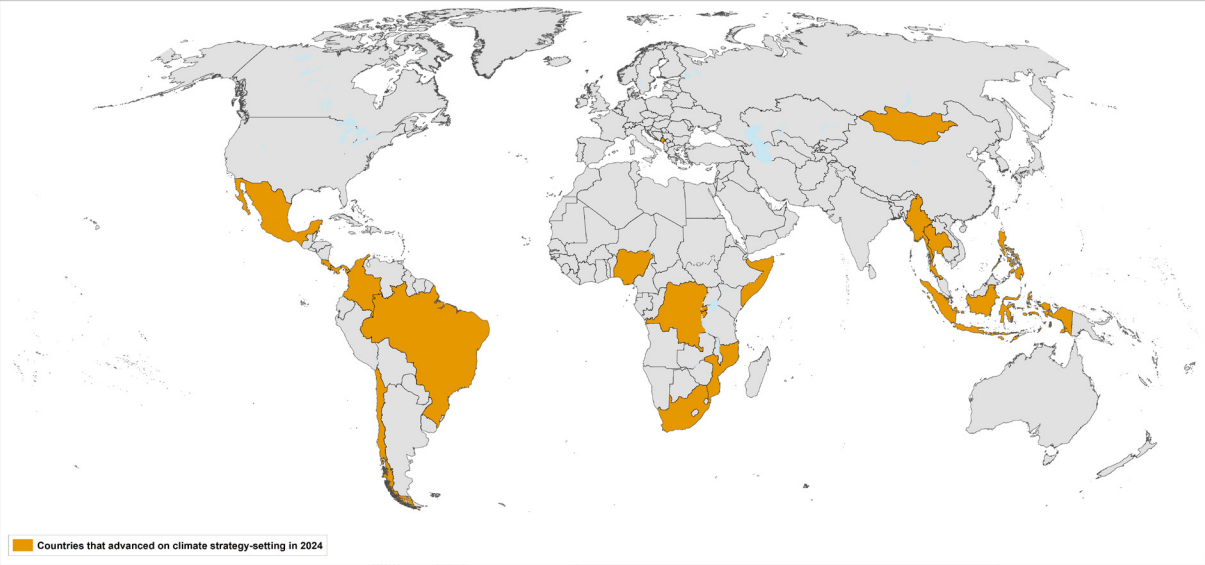
- **Climate strategies and policies:** helping State and non-State actors achieve their NDC ambitions through the adoption of climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and disaster-risk reduction strategies and policies;
- **Climate finance:** supporting the accelerated alignment of private and public finance with the long-term finance goals of the Paris Agreement; and
- **Science and transparency:** supporting State and non-State actors in adopting the Enhanced Transparency Framework arrangements under the Paris Agreement.

ii. Key results

During the reporting period, UNEP supported national, subnational and private sector actors to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, and align finance with the Paris Agreement's goals. UNEP met its performance indicator targets for 2024.

High potency greenhouse gases: UNEP continued to place high importance on mitigating methane and the emissions of other short-lived climate pollutants. UNEP supported strategy setting in Cambodia, Costa Rica, Liberia, Pakistan and Panama. To date, the Methane Alert and Response System has notified 29 governments about 1,719 plumes of methane.

Extreme heat: UNEP provided support to the UN Secretary General's call to action on extreme heat. Heat-related loss in labour productivity resulted in losses of US$863 billion in 2022. Estimates show that between 2000 and 2019, approximately 489,000 heat-related deaths occurred annually.



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Fig. 3: Climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies adopted at national or sub-national level, with UNEP support

Carbon markets: Carbon markets present and finance opportunity for enhanced climate action. In 2024, UNEP supported Colombia, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand and Zambia to participate in carbon markets. UNEP also continued producing analytics and making evidence-based policy for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement that covers internationally transferred mitigation outcomes.

iii. Performance

Climate strategies

In 2024, UNEP supported national and subnational actors to set and adopt 24 different national and subnational strategies, policies and plans on short-lived climate pollutants, methane, national adaptation plans, the circular economy, hydrogen, green freight and the management of marine protected areas.

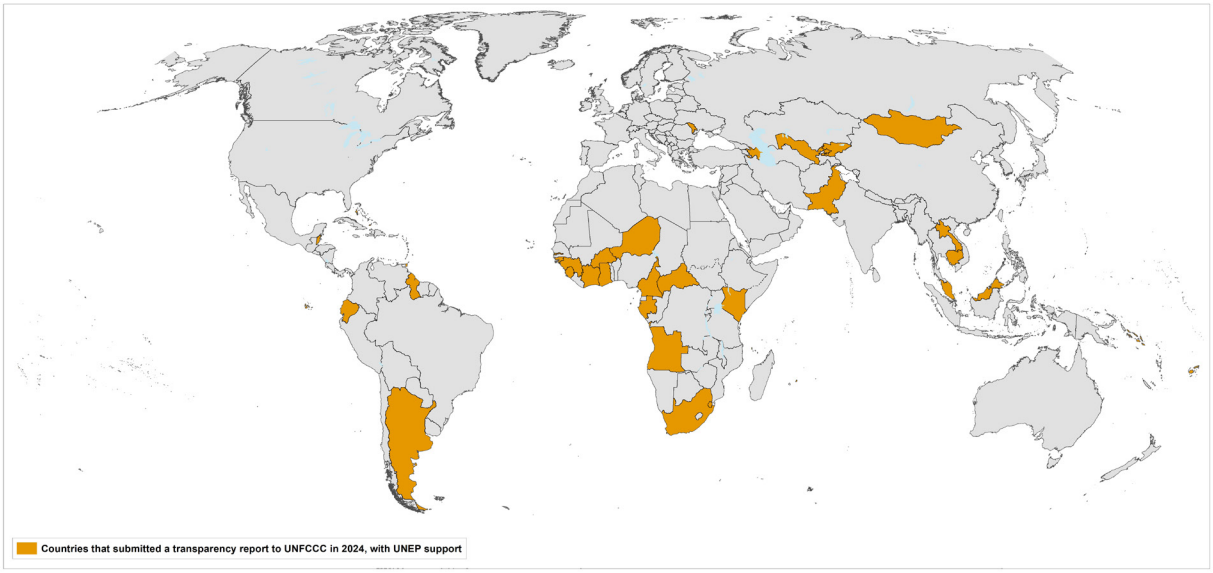
Financing climate action

In support of global efforts to mobilize US$100 billion per year through 2025, UNEP worked with countries and institutions in 2024 to raise US$165 million in project funding from various vertical climate funds. Through sectoral investment guidance and membership reporting, UNEP also helped private sector institutions secure an additional US$175 billion under a low-emissions mandate.

Science and transparency

UNEP's Adaptation Gap Reports and Emissions Gap Reports remained the go-to publication for the latest progress updates on the mitigation and adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement. In 2024, with UNEP support, 37 countries prepared and submitted 49 reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), thereby fulfilling their reporting obligations under the enhanced transparency arrangements of the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, UNEP supported countries to enhance their capacity to collect data and report on their climate action progress through assistance from the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency—Global Support Programme—and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency.



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Fig. 4: Governaments reporting under the enhanced transparency arragements of the Paris Agreement with UNEP support

iv. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

UNEP's Emissions Gap Report 2024 highlights the fact that the collective emission-reduction ambition still falls short of the 1.5–2°C temperature targets. The roll-out of climate-smart solutions is building pace and 2025 may be a turning point from emission growth to decline. However, global emission levels are far from the target of a 42-per-cent emission reduction by 2030—from the 2019 levels—which is what is needed to keep temperature rise to 1.5°C. At COP 29 many Member States stressed the strong link between increased ambition and availability of funding, and expressed frustration with the slow progress in securing funding commensurate with the transformation needed.

In 2025, countries are required to prepare enhanced NDCs and submit them to the UNFCCC well in advance of COP 30. UNEP and the wider UN System have indicated that NDCs are a blueprint for investments and providing policy direction and certainty to development partners and the private sector. It is also important to provide socioeconomic evidence of the development benefits of strong climate action to ensure that national budgets and private sector decision-making consider mitigation and adaptation as viable investments. UN advocacy has incorporated the rapid progress in, and decreasing costs of, renewable energy and e-mobility in its communication efforts and is expected to heighten its focus on positive tipping points.

Financing Viet Nam's wind energy transition

Looming over Viet Nam's southeast Binh Thuan province, the Dai Phaong windfarm is a testament to international cooperation. The ten-turbine plant was built by the Singapore-based green energy company, The Blue Circle, through funding from the UNEP Seed Capital Assessment Facility. The facility helps fund private-sector-led renewable energy projects in frontier markets in Africa and Asia.

In countries like Viet Nam, private developers often face challenges securing funding for the initial phases of a project, including research and feasibility studies. This is due to the high risks, long timelines and uncertain returns often associated with new power projects.

The facility helps tackle this problem by providing developers with early-stage financing. It is managed by the UNEP-Frankfurt School Collaborating Centre with funding from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and from Germany's Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action. In the case of Dai Phaong, the facility provided The Blue Circle with a repayable grant, which was paid back when the project was finalized.

The wind farm is now connected to Viet Nam's national grid and provides clean energy to more than 65,000 homes. Most of these households relied on coal-fired and hydro power plants before the wind farm was opened. Some rural areas also used diesel generators, which are both expensive and pollution inducing.

The project prevents approximately 90,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually. That is equivalent to taking some 20,000 cars off the road. The wind farm also generated jobs both during construction and after it opened. Its workforce now includes local technicians, site managers and support personnel, with most of the employees trained from scratch.

For The Blue Circle's Chief Executive Officer, Olivier Duguet, it is important that local residents participate in the project. "[They] are the ones who are going to see our turbines every day and live with them for 25 or 30 years," he says. "So, we have to build these projects with them and for them."

The Seed Capital Assistance Facility has worked in 19 countries, including frontier markets like Malawi, where it backed a solar power plant, and Zimbabwe, where it supported a hydroelectric facility. To date, it has helped finance 49 projects with 500 megawatts of renewable energy under operation and another 2.6 gigawatts in development.

The Global Stocktake Outcome document at COP 28 called for a tripling of renewable energy capacity and according to the International Energy Agency, the world will need to invest trillions of dollars annually in renewable energy to zero out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



Investment in the renewable energy transition in Viet Nam presents work opportunities *(©UNEP/Aartan Jam)*

Colombian cities weave nature back into urban fabric to counter climate change

Barranquilla, Colombia lies on the coast of the Caribbean Sea, surrounded by wetlands and tropical forests. While the location is idyllic, it is also perilous; the city of 1.3 million is dangerously exposed to the hurricanes that routinely sweep through the Caribbean.

To shield itself from those tempests, Barranquilla has launched an ambitious effort to restore the swamps, waterways and greenspaces that surround the city. Officials hope that this work, supported in part by UNEP, will create a buffer against high winds and ocean swells.

Barranquilla is one of several Colombian cities that have in recent years re-incorporated nature into their urban fabric. This process, known as ecosystem restoration, is key to adapting to climate change while also helping cities deal with other environmental threats, such as nature loss.

Urban areas are home to more than half of the global population. If current trends hold, by 2050, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. For their part, cities are coming under increasing pressure from climate change, which in many places is making heatwaves, floods and other disasters more frequent and more severe.

Research from UNEP shows that well-functioning urban ecosystems help lower temperatures, shield residents from disasters, clean water and create natural space for biodiversity to thrive, among a host of other benefits.

With the support of UNEP's Generation Restoration Cities project, Barranquilla is reviving 600 hectares of the Mallorquín swamp, which separates the city from the sea, creating a barrier against storm surges and sea level rise. This effort includes the planting of 250,000 trees, most of them mangroves, river clean-up and the creation of over 200,000 square metres of public space.

Along the Magdalena River, Barranquilla is also restoring the Gran Malecón, a 5km-long structure dotted with greenspaces that was designed to protect against floods.

"Barranquilla has taken on the challenge of restoring its urban ecosystems to improve the quality of life for our people," says Barranquilla mayor Alejandro Char.



Colombia Tourism Ecopark: Green infrastructure against floods and storms doubles as tourism destination in Colombia *(©AFP/Juan Barreto)*



(©UNEP/ Artan Jama)

B. Living in harmony with nature

"Biodiversity is humanity's ally; we must move from plundering it to preserving it. Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. We can — and we must — save the ecosystems that sustain us and keep our climate goals within reach. The alternative is unthinkable. The survival of our planet and our own is on the line. Let us choose wisely. Let us choose life. Let us make peace with nature".

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 29/10/2024

i. Context

UNEP's work to achieve the Living in harmony with nature strategic objective focuses on helping countries:

- adapt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity;
- mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into public- and private-sector financial decisions and risk-management frameworks and to increase financial flows towards ecosystem management;
- mainstream the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas; and
- enhance nature conservation and restoration.

ii. Key results

Support for the adoption of the CBD Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health: UNEP, through the One Health Quadripartite, provided technical guidance and policy support to countries worldwide in the preparation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health. At the COP 16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 190 countries represented by 208[1] government entities adopted the plan by consensus.

The State of Finance for Nature in Cities 2024 report: From Grey to Green: Better data to finance nature in cities: Launched at CBD COP 16, the report showcases ways in which investments in urban nature can support cities in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. It stresses the need to increase financing for global nature-based solutions from US$200 billion to US$542 billion by 2030. It highlights the need for better data and tools to help cities integrate nature-based solutions into their financial and planning frameworks.

Strengthening the resilience of coastal reef ecosystems, local communities: UNEP in partnership with the Global Fund for Coral Reefs supported the strengthening of the resilience of coastal reef ecosystems and local communities and economies by mobilizing US$70,094,116 from public and private resources that advance sustainable businesses and innovative financial solutions. Overall, 21,980 direct beneficiaries received support to conserve, restore and sustainably manage coral reefs and related ecosystems in 2024, while local communities benefitted from the creation of 1,499 jobs.

Improving knowledge and capacity for ecosystem protection and restoration: In 2024, with support from the German and Indonesian environment ministers, UNEP launched the Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas, which offers a comprehensive visual analysis of the global state of peatlands and the threats they face. By mapping peatland distribution alongside data on biodiversity, emissions, land use pressures and more, the Atlas supports evidence-based prioritization of conservation and restoration efforts.

iii. Performance

Integrated approaches for sustainable management of biodiversity

In 2024 UNEP supported 52[2] national and subnational entities that adopted or adapted economic, regulatory or decision-support tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity. Notably, following the launch of the Group of 20 (G20) Initiative on Bioeconomy, at the request of the Brazilian G20 presidency, UNEP facilitated comprehensive stakeholder engagement, synthesized key results and provided technical advice in the elaboration of the High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy approved by the G20 Member States in November 2024.

Mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into financial sectors and increase financial flows towards ecosystem management

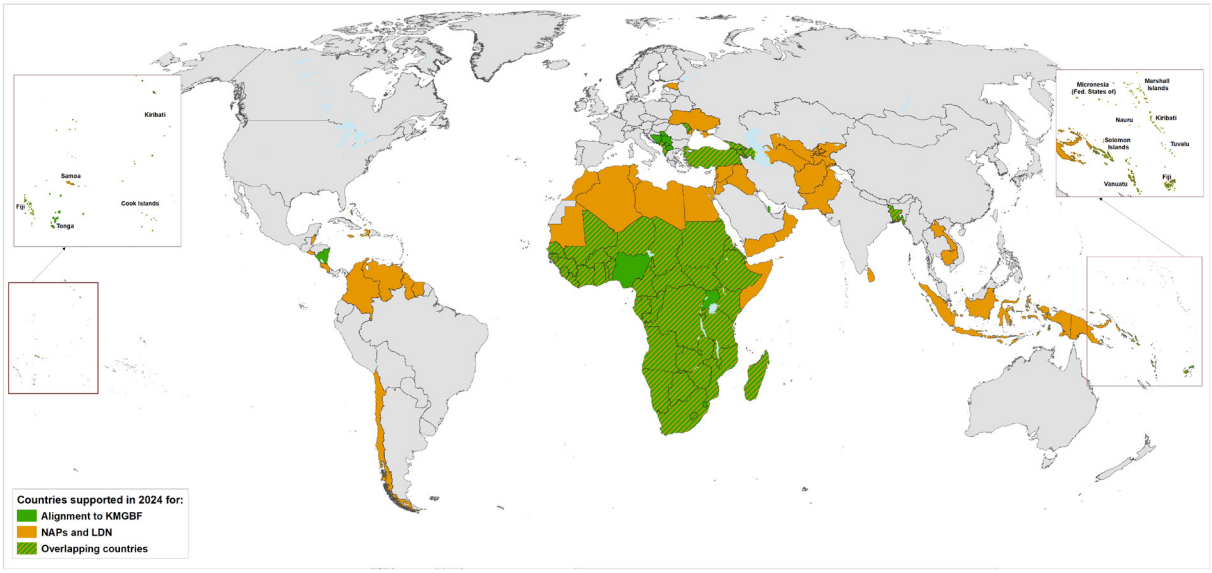
In 2024 UNEP worked with countries and institutions to mobilize US$71,192 million in support of sustainable ecosystem management and/or restoration. Supported by UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), 30 financial institutions signed the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge and have already committed to collaborating, engaging, assessing their own biodiversity impact, setting targets and reporting on biodiversity matters.

Mainstream sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral decision making

In 2024 UNEP promoted a united approach in supporting countries to deliver national and international commitments to CBD by providing technical support to 70[3] countries to align their national biodiversity targets and monitoring plans with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

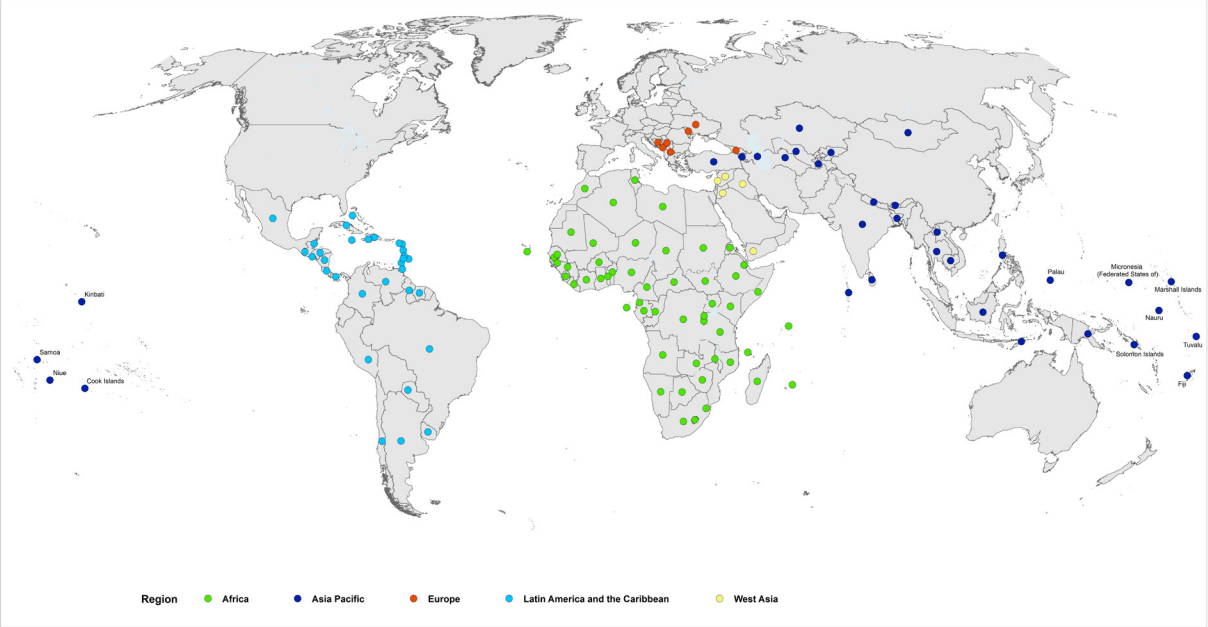
Combat land degradation, desertification and drought

UNEP assisted 107[4] countries to update their National Action Plans and reporting and to identify land degradation neutrality targets in support of the UNCCD commitments. Technical support was provided through 60 ongoing projects implemented across 130 countries with Global Environment Facility (GEF) grants of over US$165 Million to combat land degradation, desertification and drought. UNEP is increasingly helping countries to mobilize finance. For example, it developed a large-scale programme to restore landscapes, enhance ecosystem services and build resilience among communities in arid and semi-arid regions along the Great Green Wall of the Sahel. A US$77.9-million multi-trust fund of the GEF and the Least Developed Countries Fund is developing activities for ecosystem restoration, climate-smart land use, water resource management and community economic empowerment in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Fig. 5: Countries supported UNEP in 2024 to align their national biodiversity targets and monitoring plans with Kumming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), and to indentify Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and update their National Action Plans (NAPs) under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



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Fig. 6: Distribution by country of projects on land degradation

Reviving the oases in northern Niger

In the arid north of Niger, where life clings to scattered oases, a quiet transformation is underway. Since 2021, UNEP, in partnership with the GEF and Niger's Ministry of the Environment, has been carrying out the project, Integrated Management of Oasis Ecosystems of Northern Niger.

Laying the groundwork

One of the project's key achievements came in April 2022, when Niger adopted Decree No. 2022-294/PRN/ME/LCD, establishing a governance framework for sustainable oasis land management. The decree clarified institutional roles, promoted equitable access to resources and reinforced Niger's commitments under the UNCCD and other environmental agreements.

Restoring the land

With policy in place, the project focused on restoring degraded landscapes. Integrated Landscape Management Plans were developed for six municipalities, balancing environmental protection with local development. The plans guided optimal use of land, incorporating forest complexes and agricultural zones to benefit both nature and communities.

To ensure long-term impact, the project also supported the Government in drafting a national strategy for the conservation and management of oases and dry valley forest systems.

Validated at both national and local levels, the strategy underwent final review in 2024 and is now in the process of government approval.

Since the project began, over 41,000 hectares of land have been restored—reviving soil fertility, improving water management and strengthening ecosystems. Communities now see their land not as a fading resource, but as a foundation for resilience and growth.

A model of hope

Niger's story is a powerful example of how targeted support, strong policy and community-driven action can reverse land degradation. Even in the harshest climates, with the right tools and vision, hope can take root—and flourish.



Community members learning how to compost sustainably at Tsimatahodalana Ecovillage, Madagascar *(© UNEP/Florian Fussstetter).*

Enhance nature conservation and restoration

In 2023 – 2024 UNEP supported countries to sustainably manage 8,616,165 hectares of ecosystems. This includes 1,217,111 hectares of protected areas, 114,245 hectares managed under sustainable agriculture practices, 4,356,662 hectares under sustainable land management, the conservation or restoration of 2,185,193 hectares of forests, the sustainable management of 737,954 hectares of marine and coastal ecosystems and 5,000 hectares of wetlands.

In 2024, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as co-leads of the UN Decade on Ecosystems Restoration, UNEP named seven initiatives from Africa[5], Latin America[6], the Mediterranean region[7] and South Asia[8] as UN World Restoration Flagships. Together, the seven new flagships are expected to restore nearly 40 million hectares—an area almost 600 times the size of Nairobi—and create around 500,000 jobs.



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Fig. 7: Locations of ecosystems whose management was improved with UNEP's support in 2023 and 2024

iv. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

The challenges of land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change are deeply interlinked. As such, they pose existential threats to humanity and demand coordinated solutions that cut across the mandates of the Rio Conventions and related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

In this regard UNEP is taking a leadership role to strengthen individual and institutional capacities to address synergies between climate action, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. Priority has been given to helping countries align NDCs, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, UNCCD National Action Plans and Food Systems pathways to pro-nature outcomes.

Priority has been given to strengthening multistakeholder platforms that bring together governments, the private sector, civil society and academia to ensure greater inclusivity and encourage innovative partnerships. Another priority is to promote cross-sector collaboration, integrated planning, policy development and resource mobilization, as well as the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge.

Restoring Chile's wetlands: combatting desertification, mitigating drought impacts and reviving the Cahuil Lagoon

Globally, there are more than 1.2 billion hectares of vegetated wetlands, which are a haven for wildlife, a filter for pollution and a store of a planet-warming carbon. However, between 1700 and 2000, the world lost 85 per cent of its wetlands, with many, such as the Cahuil Lagoon in Chile, facing deterioration due to urban expansion, desertification and prolonged droughts.

By early 2019, the Cahuil Lagoon in Chile, once a thriving ecosystem, was on the brink of collapse. Climate change had disrupted rainfall patterns. Pollution was choking its waters and urban development was shrinking its shores. Reduced winter rainfall, driven by increasing drought conditions and advancing desertification, caused the water levels to drop dramatically, severing its seasonal connection to the Pacific Ocean. This deprived the lagoon of the salt that makes its waters brackish. Over time, this caused the lagoon to shrink, species died off and algae proliferated, releasing a powerful odour as it decayed. The lagoon's decline threatened many local industries, from fishing to tourism to salt mining.

In 2020 UNEP, with financial support from the GEF and the Chilean Government, launched an ambitious initiative to restore the lagoon's natural balance. Working with engineers and the local community, the project strategically breached a sandbar that had cut the lagoon off from the sea. By the end of 2024 this critical intervention had successfully restored the lagoon's salinity levels and reduced the algae blooms, allowing tourism and fishing industries to rebound. This example of sustainable wetland management demonstrates ways in which to harmonize conservation efforts with economic development. To ensure long-term sustainability, nesting areas have been fenced off, and local officials, empowered by the project, have developed a comprehensive conservation protocol.

The Cahuil Lagoon Restoration Project is also helping to influence national policy, leading to the implementation of South America's first law to protect wetlands—the Urban Wetlands Law. Through this new law, over 11,000 hectares of wetlands have been successfully restored across Chile, helping combat desertification, mitigate drought impacts and safeguard vital ecosystems.



Environmentalists have cordoned off part of the lagoon's beach to offer protection to nesting birds and amphibians *(©UNEP/Camila Lopez)*


(©UNEP/Kyle Babb)

C. Towards a pollution-free planet

"Investing in clean air saves lives, combats climate change, strengthens economies, builds fairer societies, and advances the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 7/9/2024

i. Context

UNEP delivers practical, scalable solutions that protect people and the planet from toxic threats, spearheading global action, advancing circularity in high-impact sectors and promoting waste reduction and sound management, as well as the uptake of solutions for tackling key pollution sources. It focuses on the following outcomes:

- strengthening global capacity and leadership in the sound management of chemicals and waste to optimize health and environmental outcomes;
- transforming waste management by promoting sectoral solutions and circular economy approaches, phasing out open burning and dump sites and making it possible to recover resources safely; and
- reducing pollutant levels in the air, water, soil and oceans to protect ecosystems and human health.

ii. Key results

Governments have been increasingly concerned about the costs of pollution to human health and the environment. Over the past years, UNEP has seen a growth in global attention to priorities on chemicals and pollution.

Advancing global action for the sound management of chemicals and waste and towards pollution prevention: In 2024, the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals, established in 2023, advanced, with its Fund launching the first call for applications. Efforts got under way to establish implementation programmes and a measurability structure for assessing progress. Negotiations on a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution continued. Given the need for an independent science-policy body, the work of the open-ended working group continued in 2024. The same year also saw the adoption, by the 79th United Nations General Assembly, of its High-level Meeting's Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance. The declaration called for an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR, and was supported by UNEP as a Member of the quadripartite partnership with FAO, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health. To curb methane emissions from organic waste, over 30 countries endorsed the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's Reducing Methane from Organic Waste Declaration at COP 29.

Championing zero pollution by advancing circularity in high-impact sectors: Given the importance of targeting key chemicals and pollutants, UNEP continues to support efforts to this purpose. That said, 2019[9] estimates put the total number of industrial chemicals in commerce globally at 40,000 – 60,000. As such, in order to effectively address risks of pollution from and exposure to harmful chemicals it is crucial to take a broader look at the use of chemicals in entire sectors from a life-cycle approach. This would make it possible to promote the overall safety of food, products and our environment. Accordingly, UNEP is addressing chemicals and pollution comprehensively and promoting circularity in high-impact sectors and value chains, including minerals and metals, electronics, plastics and textiles.

Policy change achieved in the plastics sector in 2024 include India's implementation of its national single-use plastic ban in four cities[10] and Lesotho's Plastic Levy Bill with an initial focus on single-use plastic bags. In 2024, along with its partners UNEP continued to provide technical support to extended producer responsibility schemes in 14 countries[11]. With some 40 countries already running extended producer responsibility schemes covering plastic packaging and products, efforts now focus on promoting wider uptake and strengthening existing mechanisms. A notable result in 2024 is the updating and finalization of guidelines for the implementation of extended producer responsibility for packaging (plastic) in Nigeria.

In the mining sector, the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and its *Resourcing the Energy Transition* report called for just, equitable and sustainable management of critical minerals to power the clean energy shift, and ensure benefits for communities, environmental protection and fair value chains.

In the transport sector, the Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility was adopted and Central African countries agreed on a roadmap with actions to ensure the subregion imports better-quality used vehicles. These results complement growing electric vehicle markets and broader shifts towards clean fuels and vehicles across regions, with benefits in terms of the climate and chemicals and of pollution. Progress was also made in other sectors, including through GEF-funded projects. Examples include the work of the Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Programme that focuses on phasing out the most harmful inputs in the agriculture sector, and the Integrated Programme on the Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains, which promotes cleaner supply chains in the fashion and construction sector. More broadly, UNEP, and the GEF, supported the elimination of nearly 500 metric tonnes of harmful pollutants in 2024.



Advancing towards zero waste and promoting sound management of waste: UNEP continued to promote the transition to zero waste through circular approaches, including by extending material use. In the Caribbean, the 2024 Declaration of Port of Spain reinforced commitments to circular economy approaches, financing, digital transformation and data systems. Country-level action achieved through UNEP support includes the development of waste-management strategies, such as the Gambia's National Solid Waste Management Strategy and Comoros' Framework Law on Waste Prevention and Sustainable Management.



Promoting the uptake of solutions for clean air: To help implement UNEA resolution 6/10, UNEP supported countries through technical and legal assistance, capacity building and knowledge exchange, as well as through partnerships with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the Fifth Montevideo Programme on the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V). Highlights include strengthening air quality laws in Argentina, Azerbaijan, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala and Thailand; piloting emission reduction in Cambodia and Kenya; integrating air quality and health into broader UN country support in Bahrain, Central Asia and the Balkans; and advancing sectoral regulations in Iraq and Ghana under the CCAC Fossil Fuel Regulatory Programme, thereby delivering measurable clean air gains.

UNEP and CCAC developed the Air Quality Management Exchange Platform (AQMx) platform and established the Global Air Quality Cooperation Network to provide access to information and guidance and to boost collaboration, capacity, solutions and finance. The Global Nitrogen Oxide Assessment highlighted the urgent need for coordinated global action on nitrogen oxide, a critical but under-addressed pollutant.



Addressing the environmental dimensions of antimicrobial resistance at the national level: With support from UNEP and other partners of the One Health quadripartite alliance, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Niger and Nigeria advanced in their efforts to address antimicrobial resistance by integrating environmental considerations and measures into their National Action Plans on antimicrobial resistance.

iii. Performance

Accelerating policy action for sound management of chemicals and waste and advancing circularity in high-impact sectors

Supported by UNEP, 41 national and subnational governments developed and implemented policies, strategies, legislation and action plans in 2024 to advance the sound management of chemicals and waste. These activities included efforts to implement MEAs, with three countries[12] ratifying the Minamata Convention on Mercury (raising the number of Parties to the Convention to 152 countries), and one[13] acceding to the Rotterdam Convention (now ratified by 167 parties). Nine countries[14] completed their Minamata Initial Assessments and National Action Plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining, bringing the totals to 82 and 37, respectively. Two[15] others updated their Stockholm Convention implementation plans. Additionally, three countries[16] strengthened their national chemical and waste policies with support from the Special Programme.

With UNEP's support, countries also implemented policy change to promote circularity in high-impact sectors. They focused on upstream solutions to prevent plastic pollution, and this included paying particular attention to extended producer responsibility[17] and the removal of incentives for, or the imposition of bans on single-use plastics[18]. The aim was to regulate mining in the ASGM sector[19], promote environmental considerations in multisectoral efforts to prevent AMR,[20] and to reduce impacts from the transport sector.

Advancing towards zero waste and promoting sound management of waste

As a result of UNEP's support, six governments[21] at the national and subnational levels developed or implemented policies and mechanisms to prevent and reduce waste, and ensure its environmentally sound treatment or disposal—including in disaster and conflict-related contexts. For example, a pilot wetland system was launched to recycle wastewater in Iraq[22]. Debris management measures were adopted in Gaza and Lebanon.

Intensifying solutions to pollution

With UNEP's support, 42 initiatives were implemented to reduce pollution in air, water, soil and oceans. The initiatives targeted sources across sectors and a variety of issues, such as: short-lived climate pollutants, through the activities of the UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition;[23] sustainable nitrogen management, through the development of national plans;[24] and source-to-sea pollution, through inter alia an enriched Digital Platform for the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter.

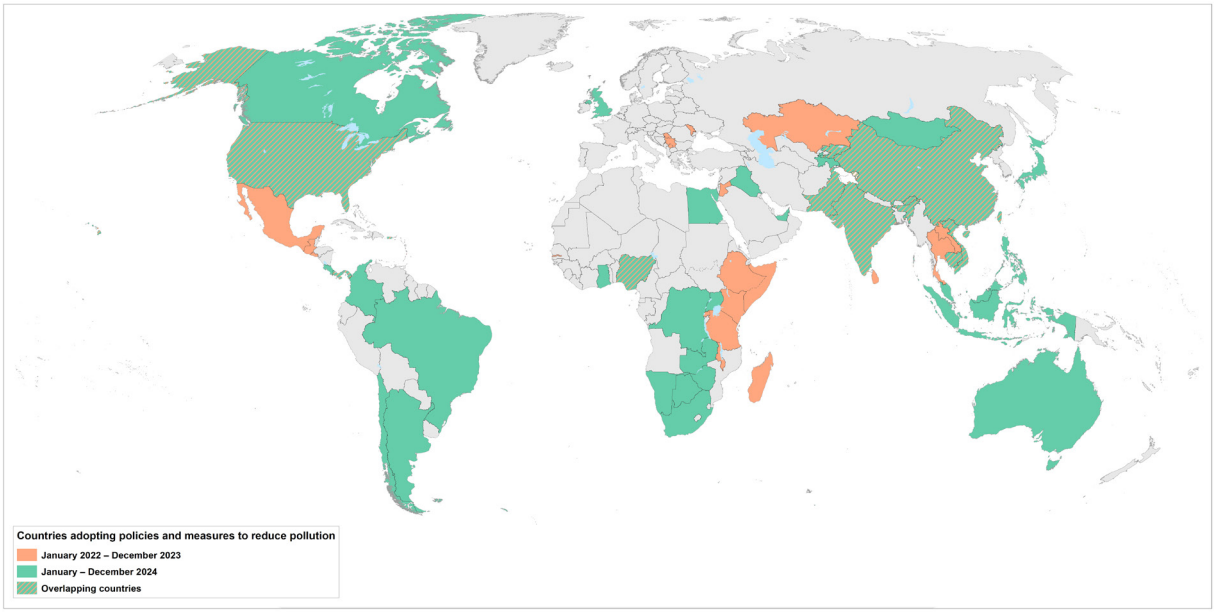
Reducing pollutant levels

UNEP worked with the GEF to facilitate the elimination of nearly 500 metric tonnes of harmful pollutants, including a total of 39.1 metric tonnes of mercury in eight countries[25], more than 352 metric tonnes of polychlorinated biphenyls in Algeria and over 108 metric tonnes of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane in Ethiopia, marking significant progress in the removal of legacy pollutants from the environment.

iv. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

Countries are increasingly concerned about health and economic impacts of exposures to harmful chemicals and pollution, for which there is ample evidence. However, United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs) barely contain objectives on chemicals and pollution, and global funding dedicated to action on chemicals and pollution is insufficient to match the global ambition and countries' priorities. To bridge this gap, UNEP has sharpened its focus on bringing the costs of pollution to light and on sector-wide, systemic solutions. To this end, it works closely with the finance sector and industry, while continuing to raise public awareness on the impacts of pollution and available solutions.

Recent global developments, including the Global Framework on Chemicals, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution and negotiations on a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution represent key opportunities to step up global action and address countries' challenges. Other developments include ongoing efforts to implement global outcomes, for instance the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on AMR.



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Fig. 8: Governments that have developed policies, regulatory, financial, and technical measures to reduce pollution in air, water, soil, and the ocean

Improving waste and asbestos management in the Gambia

Asbestos was once widely used around the world as an insulating material because of its affordability and fire resistance. But in the 20th Century, it was found to cause severe respiratory diseases and cancer when its fibres are inhaled. In the Gambia, a least-developed country in Africa, asbestos was commonly used in older private and public buildings, putting many people at risk.

To address this, the Gambian Government partnered with UNEP in 2018 and developed a project, Institutional capacity building for the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements in The Gambia, funded by UNEP's Special Programme on Institutional Strengthening for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste. This initiative directly targeted the asbestos threat and broader waste-management challenges in the Gambia.

Key outcomes included an inventory of asbestos-containing materials, the development of a national asbestos profile and the drafting of a national asbestos-management regulation. Additionally, to address hazardous waste management and close major gaps in its waste-management framework, the country developed and validated the National Solid Waste-Management Strategy.

To support implementation and oversight, the project established a multistakeholder-coordination mechanism and delivered training to key stakeholders, strengthening the national chemical control system. The 2024 Independent Assessment of Closed Projects confirmed the sustainability of these results, as detailed in the country fact sheet.

Building on this progress, the Gambia is now implementing a second special programme-funded initiative, Capacity Strengthening and Technical Assistance for Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, to deepen its commitment to chemical safety and environmental protection for the health of its people.



The Government of the Gambia conducted an inventory of asbestos-containing materials, developed a national asbestos profile, and drafted national asbestos-management regulations, with support from the UNEP Special Programme on Chemicals and Waste. *(©Gambia's National Environment Agency).*

Investing in Clean Air / Clean Air Can't Wait

Air pollution remains one of the most pressing global challenges—fuelling health crises, environmental degradation, and economic losses. With over 99 per cent of the gloabal population exposed to unhealthy air, it contributes to more than 8 million premature deaths annually, including over 700,000 children under five. The economic burden is staggering, with air pollution-linked health costs reaching an estimated US$ 8.1 trillion each year—equivalent to 6.1 per cent of global gross domestic product. Despite these impacts, less than one per cent of international development funding is directed toward combating air pollution.

To close this gap, UNEP is advancing the implementation of UNEA Resolution 6/10, focused on enhancing regional cooperation to improve global air quality. A key milestone is the establishment of the Global Air Quality Cooperation Network, designed to strengthen collaboration, scale technical capacity, implement sector-specific solutions and increase access to financing. This is supported by CCAC's Air Quality Management Exchange Platform, which serves as a global hub for knowledge exchange and best practices.

Recognizing that short-lived climate pollutants such as methane have immediate impacts on climate, air quality, food security and health, the CCAC promotes targeted mitigation efforts in critical sectors—oil and gas, agriculture, waste, transport and cooling. At the COP 29 in November 2024, over 30 countries—accounting for nearly 50 per cent of global methane emissions from organic waste—endorsed the Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste. Signatories committed to integrating methane-reduction targets into their future Nationally Determined Contributions, reinforcing the linkage between air quality and climate action.



(©Artisanal Gold Council and planetGOLD Mongolia)

3

Tackling the three planetary environmental crises: foundational and enabling subprogramme contributions

A. Science policy

"Today, our chances of limiting warming to 1.5 °C are hanging on a very slender thread. The recent UNEP Gap Report concluded that global emissions would need to fall by 7.5 per cent per year through to 2035 to return us to a 1.5 °C pathway. If we delay more ambitious action to 2030, this becomes an unprecedented 15 per cent per year. Even limiting warming to 2 °C is at risk."

Jim Skea, Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

i. Context

UNEP strategically strengthens national capacities for effective environmental governance by enabling governments to conduct rigorous scientific assessments and establish advanced environmental data systems. To this purpose, it:

- leverages targeted capacity building and specialized technical support to ensure countries can generate, access and utilize high-quality policy-relevant environmental data that align with international standards and agreements. This robust science-policy interface empowers evidence-based policymaking, driving transformative action across climate, nature and pollution agendas.
- catalyses sustainable development outcomes and accelerates global progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals by institutionalizing environmental indicator monitoring and fostering innovation in data methodologies. This approach positions science as a foundational pillar for environmental governance, enhancing transparency, policy coherence and stakeholder engagement.

ii. Key results

UNSDCF environmental support: UNEP provided technical assistance to Chad, Chile, the Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco and Uruguay to integrate environmental elements into their UNSDCF, thereby enhancing their alignment with SDGs and national priorities.

Use of Global Resource Outlook: Chile, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, South Africa and the EU utilized the International Resource Panel's (IRP) Global Resource Outlook to develop circular economy and resource-efficiency strategies, which influenced national and regional sustainable development policies.

Adaptation and Emission Gap Reports: Bangladesh, Fiji, Germany and Kenya used the *Adaptation Gap Report* to inform national adaptation plans and climate finance strategies, while Brazil, Japan, Mexico and the United States of America (USA) used the Emission Gap Report to benchmark and update their climate policies and targets.

Production Gap Report Influence: Colombia, India, Norway and the United Kingdom referenced the Production Gap Report in fossil fuel policy debates and energy transition planning, which supported commitments aligned with the Paris Agreement goals.

Environmental Policymaking and Data Integration: UNEP's science-policy outputs, including National Environment Summary reports, informed evidence-based environmental planning in countries like Botswana, Germany, Kenya, Qatar and South Africa. By November 2024, 54 National Environment Summary reports had been produced across Africa to strengthen UN country programming and sustainable-development planning.

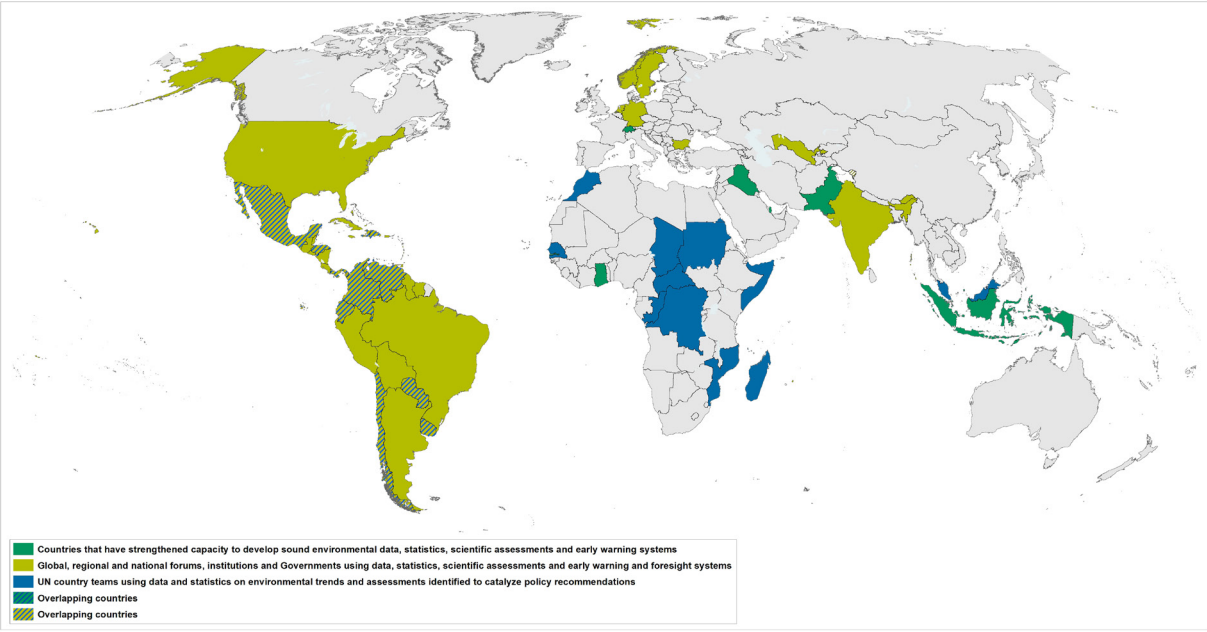
iii. Performance

In the 2024 reporting period, the Science Policy Subprogramme successfully met its targets by enabling national authorities to strengthen their capacity for developing sound environmental data, statistics and scientific assessments. Overall, the validated results underscore UNEP's pivotal role in advancing evidence-based environmental governance and chemical management at the national level. The experience highlights the importance of timely documentation, clear attribution and rigorous evidence to demonstrate impact. The subprogramme's achievements in 2024 reflect a strong commitment to helping countries meet global environmental agreements and build lasting institutional capacity for sound environmental management and policymaking.

iv. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

Adapting to rapid changes: UNEP must respond promptly to the accelerating pace of environmental, technological and societal transformations. The convergence of critical issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution requires flexible and coordinated approaches. In response, UNEP leverages timely, evidence-based assessments to provide early warnings about interconnected challenges, ensuring that Member States receive actionable, solution-oriented insights through comprehensive reports and targeted outreach efforts.

Strengthening science-policy linkages through foresight tools: By employing foresight methodologies such as scenario planning, trend analyses and horizon scanning, UNEP can better articulate the causal pathways between scientific knowledge and policymaking. Such tools make it possible to proactively integrate communication and capacity-building elements into programme design, thereby amplifying the relevance and impact of UNEP's interventions. Continuous application of monitoring, evaluation and feedback mechanisms, complemented by foresight-driven adaptive management, fosters dynamic organizational learning. Moreover, investing in staff capabilities to utilize foresight approaches supports long-term transformational resilience and innovation.



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Fig. 9: Global uptake of UNEP's environmental data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning systems

Internal change management: Successfully implementing organizational reforms requires clear leadership, effective communication and active staff engagement. Challenges such as resistance to change, ambiguous goals and limited resources can impede progress. To address this, UNEP has introduced adjustments that promote more adaptive and responsive decision-making, facilitating the integration of new knowledge, technologies and diverse stakeholder perspectives through agile governance practices. Furthermore, a strong focus on staff development, continuous feedback mechanisms and collaborative leadership is cultivating a performance-oriented and innovative culture, enabling UNEP to achieve greater impact in its mission.

Strengthening the science policy interface in Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNEP has been instrumental in bridging the gap between science and policy, in conformity with the mandate stated in decision 5/2021 by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of the region. This decision highlighted the urgent need to strengthen data infrastructure, enhance knowledge capacities and implement continuous environmental monitoring mechanisms across the region.

UNEP was tasked with leading the creation of a dynamic, multi-scale environmental information platform that aggregates validated data from national governments and subregional bodies such as the Central American Integration System, the Southern Common Market and the Caribbean Community. This platform is more than a data repository; it serves as an integrative gateway offering stakeholders access to geospatial data, official statistics, indicators, publications and capacity-building resources. Its design supports the region's strategic response to the interconnected planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Alongside this, UNEP revitalized the Regional Environmental Information Network (REIN), transforming it into a central advisory body for the Forum of Ministers. REIN's mandate, formalized through Member States' adoption of its statute, is to translate scientific evidence into actionable policy recommendations, briefs and assessments. REIN now functions as the scientific backbone of the Forum, established in 2004. Building on the legacy of the Forum's Environmental Data Working Group, REIN delivers independent evaluations of sustainability initiatives, emphasizing analysis and the dissemination of best practices that advance the SDGs and other targets.

Among other key innovations, REIN has established thematic working groups that meet biweekly to focus on priority issues such as environmental data systems and science-policy integration. Recognizing the Caribbean's unique context, a dedicated working group addresses its specific environmental and institutional challenges. REIN has also begun producing policy briefs and technical papers that provide evidence-based insights central to the Forum's agenda.

Collaboration is fundamental to REIN's structure and draws expertise from leading regional universities and institutions. They include the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, International Science Council, European Space Agency, Research Network of Marine-Coastal Stressors in Latin America and the Caribbean, national agencies and the Latin American Development Bank. Such partnerships consolidate scientific capacity and ensure that research translates into effective actions against biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change.

Overall, REIN exemplifies collaborative governance by uniting governments, researchers and international partners to advance environmental sustainability. This model reinforces the imperative for Latin American and Caribbean countries and scientific institutions to synergize their efforts. By strengthening the science-policy interface and enhancing local capacities to generate, share and apply credible data, the region is building a robust foundation for evidence-based decision-making and a sustainable future.

This initiative aligns with broader regional efforts to improve science diplomacy and integrate scientific knowledge into policy frameworks, which remain critical for addressing transboundary environmental challenges and achieving SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024 *(@UNEP/Ahmed Yusuf).*

B. Environmental governance

"We look forward to working with UNEP, funders and organizations involved in conservation to ensure that the internationally recognized rights of Indigenous Peoples are fully upheld and implemented as we work together to protect biodiversity, avert climate change, and fulfil our responsibilities to the natural world and future generations."

Andrea Carmen, Executive Director, International Indian Treaty Council, 9/12/2024

i. Context

UNEP helps countries to establish and uphold the environmental rule of law, engage diverse voices in decision-making and reach shared environmental goals, including those set the under MEAs. This is achieved by strengthening institutions, shaping legal frameworks and policies, supporting MEA implementation and working with a wide range of stakeholders.

In 2024, UNEP advanced key results across its performance indicators. Highlights include:

- more effective environmental policy processes, marked by improved coherence and scientific grounding. This progress was largely driven by Member States' collaborative actions on international environmental challenges.
- stronger environmental governance and stakeholder partnerships, paving the way for more integrated national planning and budgeting that incorporates sustainability priorities.

These results reflect UNEP's role in promoting inclusive, rights-based and science-driven environmental governance at all levels.

ii. Key results

Advancing legal responses: In 2024, UNEP advanced the environmental rule of law through legal technical assistance and capacity building, and by developing and disseminating guidance products. Key outputs included the: support to 25 countries; launch of the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders; launch of the Montevideo Programme V Handbook; and the convening of the second global meeting of national focal points and the second meeting of legal advisers to UNEP and MEAs.

Enhancing national reporting on MEAs: Between January and December 2024, UNEP supported 31 countries in creating national working spaces for Data Reporting Tool for MEAs, to help further streamline reporting on the MEAs. A new Global Goals Section was also launched in the UN Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA). It intuitively presents linkages between Global Goals and Frameworks and MEA strategic plans and policies.

Faith-based action towards a pollution-free planet: In 2024, UNEP launched a publication on faith-based action towards a pollution free-planet and strengthened its efforts to mobilize faith-based organizations under the Interfaith Working Group on Pollution. Additionally, UNEP organized Faith Pavilions and Interfaith Summits at COP 29 in collaboration with UNFCCC and at COP 16 along with the CBD. The Pavilions and Summits have mobilized multisectoral dialogue and helped generate diverse perspectives on the whole-of-society approach.

Integrated approaches for MEA synergies—UNEP's strategic support: UNEP helped 10 entities develop integrated approaches to enhance the coordination of collaboration efforts, and synergies for implementing MEAs. This was in line with MEA resolutions adopted through the Bern Process. UNEP also co-organized the Bern III Conference to identify practical opportunities for the inclusive, collaborative implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, while respecting the distinct mandates of participating MEAs and promoting effective, efficient cooperation.

Institutional strengthening projects: In 2024, UNEP supported Article 5 countries, under the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund, in their implementation, monitoring and reporting projects aimed at strengthening institutions. The support helped National Ozone Units manage their national compliance strategies, develop and enforce policies, report data, facilitate project implementation and engage public and stakeholders.

iii. Performance

Throughout 2024, the Environmental Governance Subprogramme continued to strengthen the environmental rule of law and support the coherent implementation of MEAs. The Subprogramme provided targeted legal technical assistance, capacity building and guidance products, including under Montevideo Programme V.

UNEP finalized and launched the Handbook for Montevideo Programme V in June 2024, providing a practical tool to assist governments and stakeholders in carrying out the Programme's objectives. In the same month, UNEP convened the second global meeting of national focal points, which promoted peer learning and regional cooperation to advance the environmental rule of law.

Additionally, UNEP organized the second meeting of the network of legal advisors to UNEP and MEA secretariats to foster legal coherence and shared learning across international environmental processes. In December 2024, UNEP launched the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders, developed through a multistakeholder process—including Indigenous communities, rights-based organizations, conservation organizations, experts and funders—to clarify the human rights responsibilities of private conservation organizations and funders.

The Subprogramme also helped enhance environmental law education through tailored training modules and capacity-building workshops, inter alia engaging with Montevideo Programme V and MEAs focal points. Using law as a foundational tool, these efforts aimed to build institutional capacities, improve environmental-governance frameworks and empower stakeholders to address the interconnected climate, nature and pollution crises.

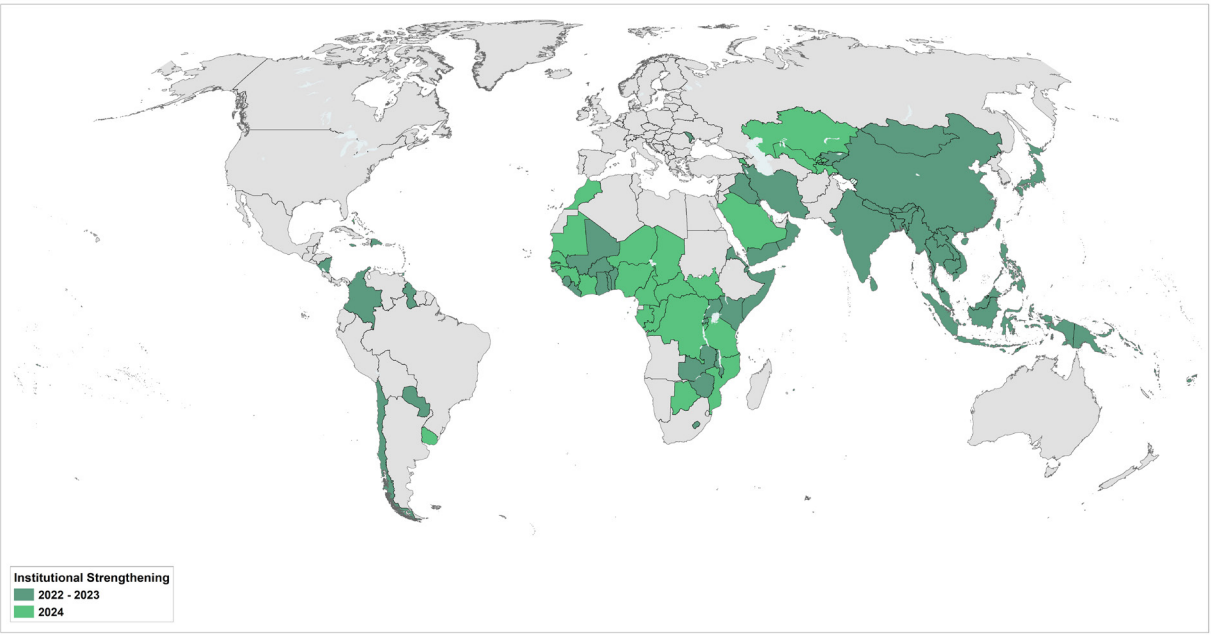
iv. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

Capacity limitations

Limited capacity in partner countries, organizations or institutions, coupled with low levels of ownership and instability in the countries involved (for example, political or socioeconomic crises, or natural disasters), can significantly impede project delivery. Such challenges have the potential to adversely affect the outcome of the Programme of Work. UNEP has continued to strengthen its engagement with countries, through technical and capacity-building initiatives benefitting organizations, Member States and Major Groups and Stakeholder institutions.

Engagement at the national and regional levels

Engaging within the UN system at the regional and country levels presents UNEP with a unique opportunity to heighten its visibility and magnify the regional impact of its Programme of Work. UNEP has seized this moment through active participation in national and regional fora that offer a unique chance to amplify its voice both at the country and regional levels. UNEP has also scaled up its delivery of advisory services to different intergovernmental processes at the regional level, such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.



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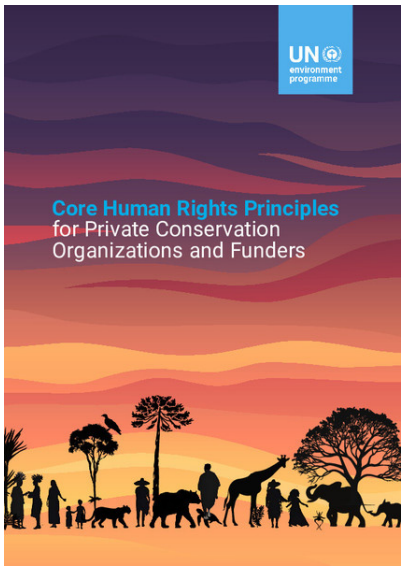
Fig. 10: Environmental Governance

Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders

The international community is facing a global loss of biological diversity on a scale unprecedented in human history. The biodiversity crisis is also a crisis of human rights. The loss of biodiversity undermines the ability of everyone, everywhere, to enjoy their human rights, but it is especially disastrous for the Indigenous Peoples and others who depend most directly on natural ecosystems for their material, cultural and spiritual well-being. Recognizing this connection, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 76/300, affirming the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The resolution highlights the importance of addressing biodiversity challenges in ways that respect and uphold human rights for all.

To be successful, efforts to conserve nature must recognize the rights and contributions of those whose ways of life contribute to its protection. It is particularly important to prioritize the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants and other tribal communities and peasants along with their methods of managing and conserving nature.

From 2022 to 2024, UNEP oversaw a multistakeholder process to clarify the ways in which existing human rights norms and standards apply to private conservation organizations and funders. The process resulted in the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders. The principles were the subject of extensive consultations with rightsholders, including Indigenous Peoples, rights-based organizations, experts, private conservation organizations and funders. As stated in the Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders: "The ten core principles for private conservation provide a framework for organizations to protect, respect, and fulfil the rights of Indigenous peoples, communities, and individuals."



Rather than creating new rights or duties, or superseding existing norms and standards, the principles reflect and clarify the existing human rights norms and standards applicable to conservation. Overall, adherence to such principles fosters a more responsible, rights-based and gender-inclusive approach to conservation, which ultimately benefits all of us who share this beautiful planet.

C. Finance and economic transformations

"Governments [must implement] stable policy and regulatory frameworks over time to encourage financial institutions to integrate circularity in their products and services."

Leila Benali, Minister for Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco, 27/02/2024

i. Context

As an enabling subprogramme, Finance and Economic Transformations promotes the shift of finance and business practices towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production and the circular economy. The goal is to realize the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda and contribute to a resilient, low-carbon, nature-positive and pollution-free planet.

The subprogramme works with governments, the private sector and relevant stakeholders to carry out supportive policies, align public and private finance with sustainability goals and leverage trade, business value chains and consumer behaviour in high-impact sectors. It provides knowledge, tools, technical support and partnerships to unlock finance and to drive decisions that decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.

ii. Key results

Brazil's national strategy on the bioeconomy and circular economy: With UNEP support, Brazil developed its National Bioeconomy Strategy and the National Circular Economy Plan. The plan, which focuses on environmental regeneration and social equity, sets national priorities and actionable goals to promote sustainable production and consumption. The

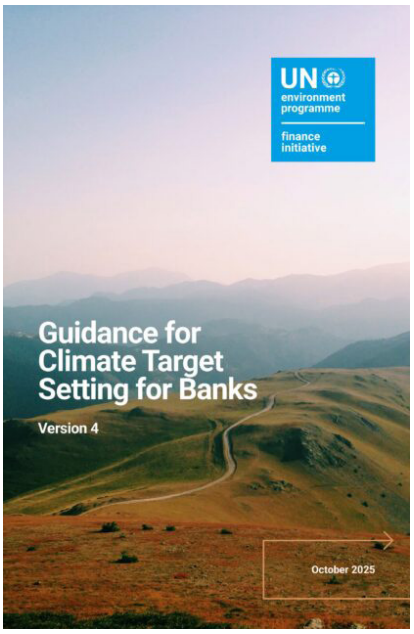
Bioeconomy Strategy focuses on leveraging biodiversity, innovation and technology to drive job creation, income generation and climate resilience. Brazil also led the G20 agreement on Bioeconomy Principles. So far, over 70 countries have implemented circular economy policies.

Kenya's commitment to advance green skills and green jobs for the youth: Through the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, UNEP supported Kenya in developing the National Strategy on Green Skills and Jobs. The strategy was included in Kenya's second National Determined Contributions (2031–2035) action plan. The Alliance for Greening Skills and Opportunities was also established to promote multisectoral collaboration, knowledge-sharing and the development of support skills in green sectors, and to foster green entrepreneurship.

Global Framework for Action on sustainable public procurement in construction: Launched at COP 29, the Global Framework for Action promotes a demand-driven approach to sustainable and circular public procurement as a catalyst for transforming the built environment toward resilience and near-zero emissions. Developed through consultations with over 200 stakeholders, it supports the Buildings Breakthrough and provides principles and actionable strategies to align public purchasing power with climate goals and SDG 12.7.

Empowering consumers and the youth for sustainable lifestyles: Global household consumption accounts for 56 per cent of gross domestic product, hence the importance of providing reliable consumer and product information, as well as promoting sustainable lifestyles (which responds to UNEA 6.8 Resolution). UNEP launched the third Edition of My Sustainable Lifestyles Challenge, engaging 140 universities and 60 youth organizations from 88 countries. Regional dialogues took place in four regions, and key reports are confirming the benefits of sustainable lifestyles for the climate and nature. The first Latin America's eco-labelling programme was launched, and will help 450 million consumers make better-informed purchasing decisions.

Climate target setting for banks: UNEP Finance Initiative updated its Guidance for Climate Target Setting for Banks to reflect the evolving sustainable finance practices and reinforce the path for Member banks to achieve net-zero emissions. The guidelines assisted Members of the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) and Principles for Responsible Banking in setting emission targets for Scope 3 Category 15. Additionally, the NZBA produced a sector-specific analysis for the automotive sector to help NZBA Members formulate or refine their own targets towards net-zero emissions. Overall, 122 NZBA banks reported on progress in 2024. Of 73 that reported exposure to the automotive sector, 12 set intermediate decarbonization targets for the sector, with the majority aiming to achieve 26–50 per cent of emission reductions by 2050.[26]



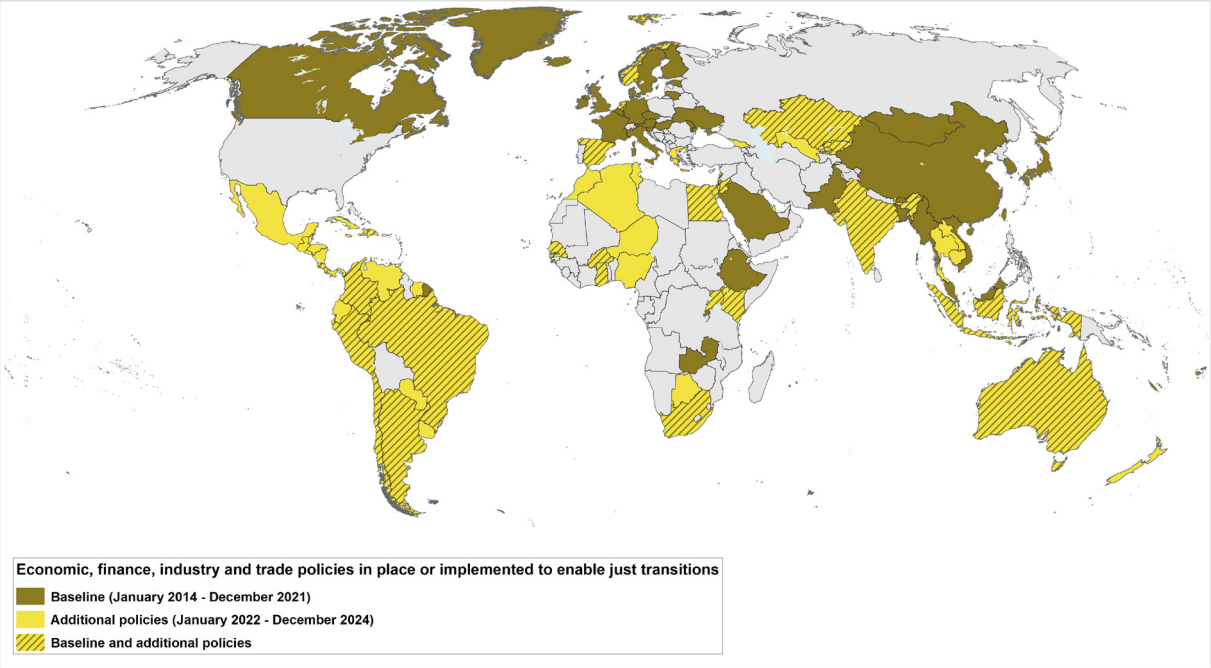
iii. Performance statement

Enabling policy environment

In 2024, UNEP supported 21 economic, finance, industry and trade policies, practices and initiatives to facilitate equitable transitions at the global and regional levels, and across 10 countries (see Figure 13). Notable examples include: the Latin America and the Caribbean's regional strategy on sustainable consumption and production; Brazil and Seychelles' circular economy roadmap and action plans; green jobs for youth policies in Cuba, Kenya, Madagascar and Senegal; the regional eco-labelling programme in LAC; sustainable finance taxonomies in Costa Rica and Panama; and the application of the UN toolbox on circularity in NDCs in Costa Rica and South Africa.

Sustainable business and industry

In 2024, UNEP helped establish 13 business alliances, principles, practices, standards or frameworks to boost environmental sustainability. For example, as co-chair of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures, UNEP announced that 320 organizations from over 46 countries would adopt the Taskforce's



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Fig. 11: Economic, finance, industry and trade policies in place or implemented to enable just transitions with UNEP support

recommendations to report nature-related risks. UNEP also launched the Forum for Insurance Transition to Net Zero (FIT), a new UN-led platform that advances climate action in the insurance sector, replacing the Net-Zero Insurance Alliance.

Informed decision-making

In 2024, UNEP expanded its efforts towards enhanced environmental sustainability, developing 35 consumer-information tools and measures, educational approaches and advocacy and awareness-raising events and products. These include the Latin American regional eco-labelling programme and the Indian Eco-Mark. Also included is the work of the One Planet Network on the Digitalization for Circular Economy Initiative to advance a global framework for digital product-information systems. Over 90 participants from 30 countries have endorsed the initiative's preliminary 2024 blueprint.



One Planet Network Forum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September, 2024 *(©foreyerphoto/Vanessa Eyer)*.

iv. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

Strengthen regulatory frameworks for clarity and effective enforcement: While progress has been made in adopting national strategies and standards, the absence of clear and enforceable regulatory frameworks remains a key barrier. Effective implementation requires stronger compliance systems, adequate financing and coordinated policy support.

Furthermore, despite the economic potential of sustainable consumption and production and circularity, challenges such as limited financing, market access and trade constraints persist. There is a need to increase knowledge, science-based evidence and case studies demonstrating the socio-economic benefits of sustainable consumption and production and the circular economy.

Prioritizing policies on high-impact sectors can significantly amplify co-benefits, including job creation, innovation, enhanced competitiveness and improved well-being. There is a need for greater emphasis on building institutional capacity that can support long-term solutions and systemic change. Flexibility has proved vital, helping projects adapt to changing national priorities and global trends. Coordination across government ministries has been essential for aligning policies and driving a bigger national shift towards sustainability.

Changes made reflect a strategic shift towards more integrated and adaptive approaches. Public and private financial sector actors were encouraged to work more closely to align financial flows with sustainability goals. Efforts were made to strengthen the capacities of local institutions.

Technical assistance is being regularly reviewed and adjusted to remain responsive to evolving national priorities and global developments. Through joint support, multiple UN agencies have heightened inter-ministerial collaboration, promoting coherence and shared ownership across government sectors.

UNEP's new Medium-Term Strategy 2026–2029 is expected to strengthen the work of the financial and economic transformation, focusing on two main objectives. One is to scale up enabling policies and action for equitable transitions to circular and resilient economies and societies, based on national and regional priorities and circumstances. The other is to unlock public and private finance to drive investment into high impact sectors to meet climate, land and biodiversity and pollution-free objectives. This will maximize co-benefits such as income growth, gains in productivity, economic resilience, job creation and well-being.

UNEP will further catalyse UN reforms for finance and economic transformation by supporting UN Resident Coordinators' offices to mainstream these goals across UN programming, and by training UN economists.

Finance for a better future: how banks, insurers and investors are driving real-world change

Across the globe, financial institutions are stepping up with bold commitments to help solve some of the world's most urgent challenges—climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and social inequalities. At the centre of this momentum is UNEP FI, a partnership between the United Nations and over 550 banks, insurers and investors. They are turning sustainability goals into action. The results speak for themselves.

Five years of responsible banking: The Principles for Responsible Banking marked a major milestone. By the end of 2023, a total of 325 banks had signed on, representing a significant share of the global banking sector. The latest progress report showed strong results.

- 98 per cent of assessed banks had integrated sustainability into their governance frameworks.
- 94 per cent had strategies aligned with global sustainability goals.
- one per cent had board- or Chief-Executive-Officer-level oversight of sustainability.
- 77 per cent had set measurable sustainability targets—most focused on climate mitigation.
- 71 per cent had committed to long-term net-zero targets.

The numbers reflect a growing recognition that sustainable banking is not just good for the planet—it's good for business.

Financing the transition to net zero: Nearly half of the signatories to the Principles for Responsible Banking are also part of the NZBA, launched in 2021 to help banks finance the shift to a low-carbon economy. By 2024, over 100 banks had published science-based targets for 2030.

Finance for a better future: how banks, insurers and investors are driving real-world change *(contd.)*

According to the NZBA's 2024 progress report:

- 89 out of 120 banks had set targets to reduce emissions from power generation;
- 60 banks had targets for oil and gas;
- many banks are phasing out coal or have no exposure to it;
- around two-thirds of NZBA Members had lending policies for coal, oil and gas; and
- nearly one-third had policies addressing land use and deforestation.

These efforts are helping to shift trillions in capital to support low-carbon transitions across high-impact industries.

Investors making an Impact: The Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance, that comprises 88 major investors, who managed US$9.5 trillion in 2024, also reported strong progress. Since its launch in 2019, Members have reduced their financed emissions by at least six per cent annually. In 2020, Members had invested US$87 billion in climate solutions. By 2023, that number had jumped to US$555 billion—about six per cent of total assets under management. Most Members have also set intermediate targets of 20–30 per cent emission reductions by 2025, and 40–50 per cent reductions by 2050.

Insurers join climate forum: The Forum for Insurance Transition for Net Zero—a new platform bringing together insurers, reinsurers, regulators and experts—released its first global guide, Closing the Gap, offering practical guidance on how insurers can develop transition plans and support a just and resilient net-zero economy.

Tackling pollution and plastic waste: In 2024, a total of 180 financial institutions signed the Finance Statement on Plastic Pollution, calling for shared targets to reduce plastic waste across the value chain.

Protecting nature: The UNEP FI provided tools to help financial institutions integrate biodiversity into decision-making and align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

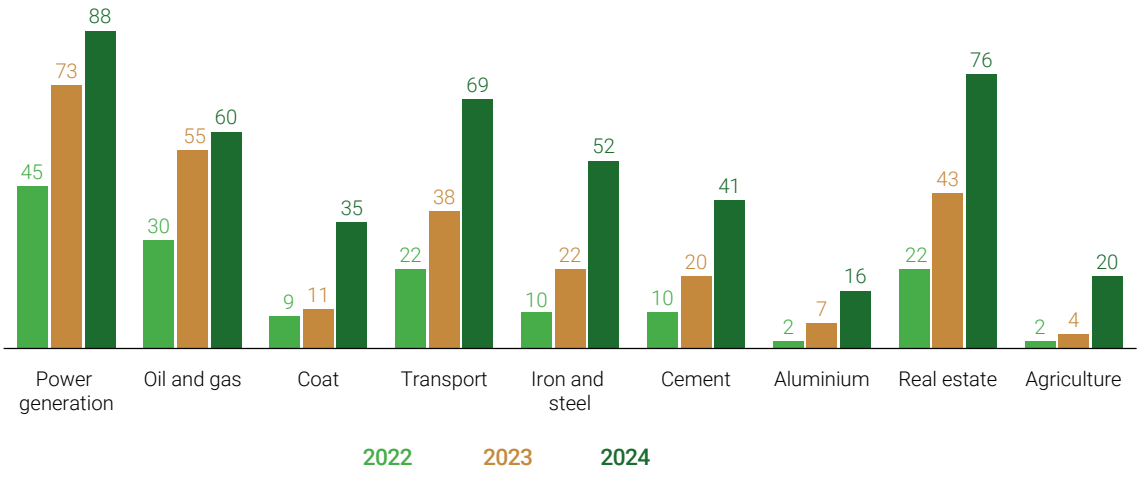


Fig 12: Number of banks with decarbonization targets for carbon-sectors. *(Source: UNEP FI/2024/ Net-Zero Banking Alliance 2024 Progress Report).*

D. Digital transformations

"Just earned my #Digital4Sustainability Learning Path certification! Excited to deepen my expertise in integrating digital transformation with sustainable practices. As technology and sustainability converge, leveraging digital tools for ESG, climate action, and responsible business operations is more crucial than ever. Looking forward to applying these insights in real-world projects and discussions. Let's connect and drive meaningful change together!"

Kailash Chaudhary, City Business Lead, Turner and Townsend, March 2025

i. Context

UNEP's Digital Transformation efforts in 2024 were at the core of rapid technological advancement and urgent environmental needs. Global leaders cautioned that unchecked digitalization could exacerbate climate and pollution challenges, which reinforced the imperative to integrate digital innovation with sustainability strategies. Nevertheless, digital technologies have become pivotal tools for achieving environmental goals, provided their benefits are accessible to all. In 2024, UNEP intensified collaboration across the UN System and with partners to promote an inclusive and environmentally sustainable digital future. This approach prioritizes bridging the digital divide and curbing the environmental footprint of technology, while harnessing data and innovation to drive progress on the SDGs and global commitments concerning the climate, nature and pollution.

ii. Key results

CO_2e tracking of prevented emissions: UNEP launched a digital application to monitor the Montreal Protocol's climate impact, revealing the prevention of nearly 10 billion tonnes of CO_2-equivalent emissions as of 2023. This interactive tool allows users to track the production and consumption of controlled substances across countries and years, generating customized reports that underscore the protocol's contributions to climate change mitigation.

Digital Accelerator Lab: Launched in 2024, UNEP's Digital Accelerator Lab platform showcases the power of digital technologies and data in achieving environmental goals. Users can explore early-stage prototypes and cutting-edge tools, and provide feedback to refine innovative solutions that benefit the planet. Engaging a diverse community of practice, the Lab accelerates the development of digital solutions to challenges posed by the climate, nature and pollution.

Digital sustainability for action on pollution: The course emphasizes digital technologies' critical role in addressing global pollution challenges. This module was developed in partnership with the UN System's Staff College under UNEP's Digital4Sustainability initiative. It explores ways in which emerging digital innovations mitigate six rapidly increasing pollution types, and equips practitioners with the skills required to accelerate systemic change towards effective prevention of pollution and sustainable management of the environmental.

Climate Transparency Platform: Through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency, UNEP and partners introduced the one-stop Climate Transparency Platform to support developing countries under the Paris Agreement. This online hub centralizes transparency resources, offers regional peer-network forums, and features an "Ask the Experts" service to assist countries with new climate-reporting requirements.

Climate Data Challenge: UNEP's Finance Initiative published an analysis highlighting persistent gaps in climate data availability and quality. The report calls for open-source, neutral data platforms to improve climate-risk assessment and disclosure, guiding the financial sector towards more effective climate action. It underlines the crucial role of shared, reliable climate data for informed investment and policy decisions in support of global climate goals.

iii. Performance

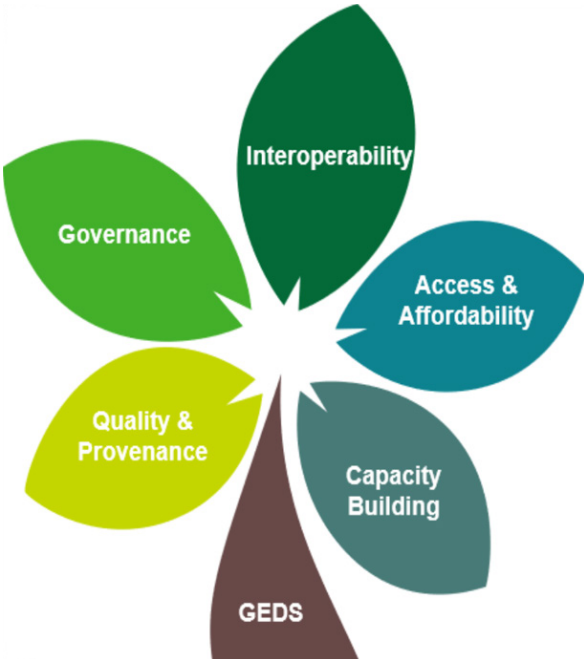
Deployment of innovative digital platforms

UNEP continued to expand its digital capabilities in 2024, significantly enhancing environmental monitoring and transparency. The Montreal Protocol's CO_2 e-tracking application allowed policymakers and the public to visualize the avoidance of nearly 10 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions through ozone protection efforts, exemplifying data-driven accountability and transparency. Additionally, UNEP advanced the World Environment Situation Room, transforming its architecture from a data aggregator portal into a robust platform that will offer comprehensive data integration, sophisticated analysis and dynamic visualization features. Enhanced-use cases, such as Country Environment Dashboards, the Environmental

Policy Tracker and the Environment GPT, will provide stakeholders with tailored tools to address specific environmental challenges effectively.

Fostering alliances and networks

UNEP facilitated extensive multistakeholder collaboration through Global Environmental Data Strategy consultations. Between October and December 2024, they included: five regional dialogues with UN Regional Groups; a dedicated session for Major Groups on October 24; and over 20 expert roundtables. Over 250 participants took part in the events. They focused on strengthening environmental data governance, enhancing interoperability, access and affordability and efforts to embed sustainability into environmental data-management practices. Additionally, UNEP FI highlighted the critical role of shared data standards and open platforms in addressing gaps in climate data, enhancing the exchange of cross-sectoral knowledge and promoting informed financial and environmental decision-making.



Artificial intelligence governance and public participation

In 2024, UNEP released the issue note, Artificial Intelligence (AI) End-to-End, at the UNGA, and called for comprehensive assessment of AI's environmental impacts throughout its lifecycle. To complement these awareness efforts, UNEP expanded its Digital4Pollution learning modules, empowering diverse global stakeholders with essential digital sustainability skills. Additionally, the Digital Accelerator Lab promoted inclusive innovation, inviting broad public participation in developing and refining digital solutions for environmental sustainability.

iv. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

In 2024, UNEP's digital transformation agenda faced persistent and emerging challenges. Rapid digitalization brought growing environmental impacts, including rising energy consumption, mounting e-waste and greater demand for raw materials. As highlighted in the UN Conference on Trade and Development's Digital Economy Report, the global surge in electronic waste—much of it unmanaged—underscored the urgent need for stronger international cooperation and equitable digital infrastructure. Additionally, significant disparities in digital access and data capabilities persisted among countries, risking a widening digital divide and uneven progress toward global sustainability targets.

Opportunities arose through new alliances and innovative solutions. The latter included the: expansion of the Digital Accelerator Lab; deployment of the World Environment Situation Room's data and applications platform; and the regional transparency networks of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency—Global Support Programme. This demonstrated the value of collaboration across the UN System and with external partners. The initiatives showcased the potential of open, neutral digital platforms to bridge information gaps, support peer learning and empower countries to meet climate reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement.

Key lessons learnt in 2024 included the importance of integrating environmental considerations throughout the digital technology lifecycle. The launch of UNEP's issue note on the environmental impact of AI catalysed new discussions on responsible digital innovation, while the regional consultations on the Global Environmental Data Strategy underscored the value of inclusive stakeholder engagement and robust data governance. The expansion of the Digital4Sustainability learning modules further reinforced the need for ongoing capacity-building, with high participation reflecting global demand for digital skills linked to sustainability.

UNEP adapted by scaling up support for digital literacy, gender equity and open data access. The organization prioritized evidence-based policymaking and transparent monitoring systems, while driving forward circular economy principles and greener digital practices. Such changes position UNEP to more effectively harness digital transformation for environmental action, ensuring that innovation drives progress while safeguarding planetary health.

Environmental dimensions of digital transformation

In 2024, the UN Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with UNEP and other global partners, released the *Digital Economy Report* highlighting the environmental dimensions of digital transformation. Despite perceptions of the digital economy as intangible, its environmental impacts are significant. For example, producing one laptop requires extracting around 800 kilograms of raw materials. Additionally, the information and communications technology sector accounts for approximately 1.5 per cent to 3.2 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is comparable to the shipping industry.

The report critically assesses the full lifecycle of digital technologies—from raw material extraction and manufacturing to usage and disposal. It notes a worrying 30 per cent rise in global electronic waste from 2010 to 2022, reaching 10.5 million tonnes annually, with only 24 per cent recycled responsibly. This underscores the urgent need for robust, equitable global e-waste-management solutions.

The inequalities highlighted are stark: developed countries generate over 15 times more e-waste per capita than the least-developed nations, disproportionately impacting developing countries. To address this, the report advocates transitioning to a sustainable, circular digital economy through longer-lasting, recyclable designs, improved e-waste-recycling systems, and renewable-powered data infrastructure. Such measures support global commitments, including SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and the Paris Agreement.



Emphasizing inclusive governance, international collaboration and alignment across stakeholders, the report strategically influences global agendas ahead of key summits like the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact. As policymakers integrate these insights into digital and climate regulations, the report serves as both a wake-up call and a strategic guide, stressing that responsible digital innovation can substantially advance environmental sustainability and global prosperity.



(©UNEP/Ahmed Yussuf)

4
Fit for purpose

A. Leadership for the Planet

"Temperatures are rising. Ecosystems are disappearing. And pollution remains a deadly threat. These are global problems that require global solutions. The world must pull together to build a fairer, more sustainable planet."

Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director, 13/2/2025

In 2024, UNEP drove transformational change to address the three planetary environmental crises—setting the agenda, inspiring action and empowering countries, regions, UN organizations and people. At UNEA, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and the UNGA, UNEP a helped bring about critical decisions to advance the well-being of people and planet. UNEP championed the integration of environmental priorities across UN programmes, funds and agencies, and empowered the UN System to lead by example in advancing sustainability. As the custodian agency for 25 SDG indicators, UNEP enhanced methodologies, improved data analysis and supported Member States. UNEP also strengthened its own oversight and risk-management systems, reinforcing its position as a trusted and reliable partner.

i. The Sixth United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEA-6, held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 under the theme, "Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution," was the most attended UNEA session to date. Over 5,600 participants, including 12 world leaders, 1,683 delegates from 161 Member States and Observers and 1,032 representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders participated.

UNEA-6 adopted 15 resolutions, eight decisions and a ministerial declaration addressing key environmental challenges such as pollution, desertification, sand and dust storms, ocean protection, air quality, freshwater management and the sustainable mining of energy-transition minerals. The Assembly agreed to transmit the ministerial declaration to the UNGA as UNEA's contribution for consideration at the Summit of the Future.

Three leadership dialogues examined the role of science, data and digitalization, finance and multilateral cooperation in accelerating environmental action and effectively addressing climate change, nature loss and pollution. Two high-level dialogues focused on enhancing cooperation through multilateral environmental agreements.

UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders organized a multistakeholder dialogue on Partnering for the environment: inclusive multilateralism fit for purpose, which came afer the 20th Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum.

The 2024 Global Youth Environment Assembly, (17–18 February 2024) adopted a Global Youth Declaration on the Environment, calling for policies and mandates centred on intergenerational equity and a long-term perspective. In its Ministerial Declaration, UNEA welcomed the Youth Environment Assembly and recognized its role in fostering young people's active participation in multilateral environmental governance.

A Cities Summit, organized in the run-up to UNEA-6, underscored the role of cities in addressing the three planetary environmental crises.

ii. High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

UNEP engaged actively in the preparation and discussions of the HLPF sessions. The UNEA-7 President participated in the HLPF and conveyed messages from UNEA. The co-chairs of the board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns introduced the annual progress report to the HLPF.

The 2024 HLPF adopted a Ministerial Declaration that emphasizes the urgent need to place a priority on action to mitigate climate change and adapt to it. It calls for the mobilization and delivery of new and additional means of implementation to help enact the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Additionally, it reiterates the need to strive for land-degradation neutrality. Ministers also pledged to support global efforts to address plastic pollution, as well as the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

iii. UN General Assembly

On 22 September 2024, Heads of State and Government adopted the Pact for the Future along with its annexes, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations. The overarching aim was to safeguard the needs and interests of both present and future generations. Leaders pledged, inter alia, to strengthen actions to address climate change (Action 9), accelerate their efforts to restore, protect, conserve and sustainably use the environment (Action 10), and accelerate the reform of the international financial architecture so that it can meet the urgent challenge of climate change (Action 52).

UNEP highlighted the importance of: the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; financial and economic transformations that build equity and resilience; circularity and sustainable consumption and production, including in the energy transition and digital transformation; and One Health approaches.

High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance

On 26 September 2024, the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance, convened by the President of the General Assembly at the level of Heads of State and Government, adopted a political declaration committing to clear targets and actions. The declaration highlights the critical role of environmental factors in the development and spread of AMR and calls for priority on environmental action. Leaders also emphasized the need to strengthen health systems to monitor and minimize the health impacts of AMR and the adverse effects of climate change. To this end, they called for action including adequate preventive measures, preparedness, timely response and effective management of natural disasters, as well as integrating health considerations into climate adaptation plans.



High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance at UN Headquarters, New York, 26 September, 2024 *(©UNEP/Will Swanson).*

iv. Environment Management Group (EMG)

The Environment Management Group is the UN System-wide coordination body for the environment and human settlements. It identifies priority issues on the international environmental agenda that require collective action and mobilizes the UN System's combined capacity and expertise to deliver coherent, coordinated responses. Under UNEP's leadership, the EMG played a crucial role in advancing key environmental priorities across the UN System.

a. Key results

The EMG's Nexus Dialogue series explored the impacts of subsidies on supporting evidence-based policymaking and promoting sustainable economic growth. Two dialogues involving UNEP, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, FAO, the and other Members examined the economic, social and environmental impacts of subsidies. Discussions covered lessons learnt within the UN System, case studies on subsidy repurposing and strategic approaches to policy reform.

The UN Common Approach to Biodiversity gained significant momentum, with increasing uptake by UN entities. In collaboration with the Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change in Europe and Central Asia, the EMG helped UN Country Teams integrate biodiversity into national planning. This included the development of Guidance for Integrating Biodiversity into Common Country Analyses and UNSDCFs, and of Key Advocacy Messages for Biodiversity Mainstreaming.

The EMG convened Heads of UN entities and senior officials for three high-level roundtables at CBD COP 16, UNFCCC COP 29 and UNCCD COP 16. The roundtables focused on practical solutions for the integrated implementation of the Conventions, linking relevant frameworks together to break institutional and thematic silos, strengthen coordination and accelerate delivery through joint action.



Panelists of the EMG High-level Roundtable at the CBD COP 16 in Cali, Colombia *(©International Institute for Sustainable Development and Earth Negotiating Bulletin/Angeles Estrada Vigil).*

v. Greening the Blue

Greening the Blue provides technical support to and monitors the UN System's efforts to carry out the Chief Executives Board's Strategy for Sustainable Management in the UN System; 2020–2030 Phase I: Environmental sustainability in management. SUN leads the Greening the Blue community, uniting close to 60 UN entities. The Greening the Blue 2024 Annual Report highlights the collective efforts of the UN System to reduce the environmental impact of its operations and facilities. The report presents the UN System's environmental sustainability performance for 2023, covering the activities of 322,900 personnel across 58 entities. It highlights:

- a slight increase in GHG emissions in 2023, reflecting a full return to normal operations following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and that despite this, emissions remained at levels comparable to 2018 and 2019;
- notable progress in environmental governance across the UN System, with 27 entities making significant advances toward full the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS);
- the introduction of mandatory environmental training for personnel by 70 per cent of the UN entities; and
- a decrease by four per cent of waste generated per capita compared to 2022, with 31 per cent of waste being reused, recycled, composted or used for energy recovery.



These results demonstrate the UN System's continued commitment to "walk the talk" and integrate sustainability into its facilities and operations. The SUN programme continues to support such progress by providing training, establishing a pool of auditors and facilitating peer learning and knowledge exchange.

a. Key results

New tools and initiatives: In 2024, SUN, in collaboration with the Global Service Centre, developed a new data platform for UN System-wide environmental performance reporting. The platform, operational since December, simplifies reporting, replaces static excel forms and introduces stronger verification, providing reliable data to support informed sustainability action. It collects and shares best practices to enhance peer learning and guide technical improvements in areas like offsetting, Scope 3 emissions and the management of facilities.

Additionally, SUN supported the Greening the Blue Advisory Group on Scope 3 emissions, preparing UN entities to report on the emissions. The group also drafted a UN System-wide response to a climate-related disclosure standard proposed by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board. It collected and shared best practices to enhance peer learning and guide technical improvements in areas such as the reductions of GHG emissions, calculation of Scope 3 emissions and sustainable management of facilities.



"Sorting it out": United Nations Office at Geneva tests SUN guidance for waste audit, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland *(©UNEP/Greening the Blue)*.

vi. Stewardship of SDG indicators

In 2024, UNEP provided data on the Global SDG Database for all its SDG indicators. It also contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 and provided storylines for 20 indicators.

The Inter Agency and Expert Working Group on SDGs reclassified SDG indicator 6.3.2 (on water quality) from Tier II to Tiar I, as more than 120 countries reported data on it in 2023. Half of UNEP's indicators are still classified as Tier II, suggesting that while methodologies exist, countries do not yet produce data regularly.

In 2024, UNEP submitted SDG indicators and Indicator 17.7.1 to the Inter Agency and Expert Working Group on SDGs for a review of agreed methodologies, as part of the 2025 Comprehensive Review Process. Changes to the two indicators were endorsed: Indicator 15.9.1a is now linked to the Kunming-Montreal GBF, and Indicator 17.7.1 has been expanded to cover both developed and developing countries.

To catalyze essential action towards reducing food waste and achieving SDG target 12.3, UNEP published the *Food Waste Index Report 2024*.

B. Advancing the environment agenda at the national and regional levels

i. Key results

In response to a government request, UNEP, working with the UN Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan and other UN Country Team (UNCT) members, led joint assessments and leveraged initial seed funding to mobilize technical expertise. Led by the Resident Coordinator, this collective approach integrated air quality into UNCT planning and programming frameworks, enabling the UN and other development partners to carry out large-scale coordinated operations in support of Clean Air Action.

ii. Performance

UNEP has continued to enhance country-level engagement by further expanding and strengthening its network on UNCT focal points. Appointed for 130 UNCTs, the focal points receive support through a centralized dashboard, standardized tool and regular knowledge-sharing including webinars and monthly 'country dialogues'.

Development of UNEP country dashboards

In June 2024, UNEP launched its internal country dashboards, providing the first-ever systematic, consolidated overview of UNEP's country-level activities, projects, budget allocations and expenditures. Quarterly reports on UNEP's project footprint at the country level complement the dashboards to foster strategic discussions between Regional Offices and Divisions and thereby heighten engagement and coordination across countries.

Country engagement plans

In 2024, UNEP piloted country engagement plans in 15 countries. Its goal was to better respond to countries' priorities and take a needs-based approach to the support provided to governments and increase the coordination, coherence and strategic intent of the portfolio of projects and activities in the countries. Additionally, it sought to leverage the UNCT collective programming for collaborative effort on climate change, nature and land, as well as on chemicals and pollution.

Strengthening country-level engagement

At the strategic level, UNEP, in partnership with the UN Development Coordination Office, has intensified efforts to strengthen its country presence. Joint initiatives have included dialogues with Member States to promote coordinated UN action on environmental issues at the country level, as well as multiple information sessions with UN Resident Coordinators.

Notably, from 5–6 November 2024, UNEP, the UN Development Coordination Office and the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform convened a dialogue in Nairobi under the theme "Harnessing Innovative Environmental Solutions for Sustainable Development." This event aimed to strengthen collaboration between UNEP and the UN Resident Coordinator system across Africa.

Similarly, from 1–3 October 2024, the UN Development Coordination Office, in collaboration with UNEP, organized a regional workshop in Istanbul, Türkiye, with participants from various UN agencies and Resident Coordinator Offices in the Europe and Central Asia region. The workshop focused on adopting integrated approaches to developing UNSDCFs, leveraging available tools and analyses and addressing key gaps in the application of results-based management.



UNEP Executive Director with Resident Coordinators from the Africa region, 5–6 November 2024, Nairobi *(©UNEP/Ahmed Yusuf).*

iii. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and actions taken

UNEP has made significant strides in advancing the environmental agenda at the national level. However, key challenges remain, including the need to:

- strengthen responsiveness to country priorities improve alignment with UN Cooperation Frameworks, and
- scale up environmental action through collaboration with UN entities operating at the country level.

UNEP's limited country presence is a major constraint that hampers its ability to meet growing demands from governments and Resident Coordinators. According to the 2025 Report of the Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group on the Development Coordination Office and the Resident Coordinator System, only 66 per cent of host governments believed it is easy to access technical expertise from UN entities not physically present in their country in 2024.

To address this, UNEP has strengthened its network of UNCT focal points, providing them with the necessary information to effectively engage across UNEP subprogrammes at the country level. Furthermore, UNEP has enhanced knowledge-sharing and collaboration through country dialogues, webinars, technical clinics and regular information exchanges.

There are also opportunities to build on successful practices from other UN entities, such as further developing country engagement plans and establishing a standing surge capacity pool of technical experts to respond rapidly to country-level demands.

C. Gender integration in the environment agenda

i. Key results

A gender champion: In 2024, UNEP maintained its position as one of the most successful UN entities in advancing gender equality, meeting or exceeding 94 per cent (16 out of 17) of the UN-SWAP performance indicators. UNEP has consistently achieved this high level of performance since 2022.

Gender integration: UNEP continues to strategically and systematically mainstream gender considerations across its programmes and projects. In 2024, gender was fully integrated into 72 out of 79 new project documents, with the remaining seven incorporating gender considerations partially.

Strengthened gender architecture: UNEP further reinforced its internal gender architecture to help mainstream gender equality and enhance staff capacity.

ii. Performance

UNEP gender focal points' (GFP) retreat: From 17 to 19 September 2024, UNEP convened its gender focal points' (GFP) retreat, bringing together over 30 GFPs to strengthen the organization's gender equality architecture and foster collaboration within the GFP network. The retreat provided an opportunity for GFPs to deepen their knowledge and enhance their capacities to integrate gender across UNEP's programmes, publications, projects and reporting. Participants also exchanged experiences, shared lessons learnt and discussed practical strategies for advancing gender equality in UNEP's work.

iii. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

Limited sex-disaggregated environmental data: While there are some good examples of projects having sex-disaggregated targets, many UNEP projects and programmes do not systematically collect or report sex-disaggregated data, making it difficult to assess gendered impacts or progress on gender equality. Without adequate data, reporting on gender equality commitments in the MTS, SDGs or project outcomes becomes anecdotal and weakens transparency and accountability. UNEP is ensuring that all new projects include indicators requiring sex-disaggregated data

Breaking barriers: women leading the way in Zambia's cooling industry

Imagine your air conditioner breaks down, and when the technician arrives, it's a woman with a toolbox in hand—confident, skilled and ready to get the job done. In Zambia, this is no longer a rare sight, thanks to trailblazers like Sarah Nakanyika, a leader in the country's refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector and a passionate advocate for women's empowerment.



This woman takes the lead in cooling advancement in Zambia *(©Sarah Nakanyika).*

Sarah's outstanding work and influential voice have made her a recognized figure in the fight to protect the ozone layer. Through hands-on training, awareness campaigns and mentorship, she equips female technicians with the knowledge and skills to work with new refrigeration technologies, detect and manage harmful gases and promote environmentally friendly alternatives.

As the leader of Zambia's Women RAC Group and the owner of her own successful business, Sarah is creating opportunities for women to support each other and thrive in a sector traditionally dominated by men. Her team provides high-quality installations, repairs and maintenance services for residential, commercial and industrial clients—all while championing environmental sustainability.

For Sarah and her growing network of female technicians, protecting the environment and promoting women's leadership go hand in hand. Their achievements are proof that success and environmental responsibility are not defined by gender.

Despite the RAC industry's male-dominated nature and lingering prejudices, Sarah continues to break barriers. Her dedication, technical excellence and unwavering integrity have earned her the respect of clients and peers alike. A mentor to many and a lifelong learner herself, Sarah's resilience and impact are undeniable.

To young women aspiring to follow in her footsteps, Sarah offers simple but powerful advice:

"Set your goal and never quit adding value. Continue working hard with determination and passion." Go after results, learn, repeat. She believes that is the key to success and can get anyone anywhere!

from the outset (for example in the project-result frameworks or the logical framework and its monitoring, evaluation and learning plans).

Limited accountability mechanisms: The past few years have seen significant improvements in the integration of gender into project development. For instance, increasingly projects have dedicated gender expertise and/or budget for gender activities. However, gender-related interventions are not being fully implemented or reported on. UNEP embeds gender compliance and performance into project reviews and, while monitoring implementation by reviewing annual project reporting, it flags instances where commitments are not being followed through.

Project gender tagging: The Integrated Planning, Management and Reporting (IPMR) solution has been enhanced to support the tagging of gender components within projects. This functionality enables project teams to systematically identify and tag gender-relevant outcomes during project design and implementation. As such, IPMR may heighten accuracy in the tracking and reporting of budgets and expenditures related to gender equality and women's empowerment. The UN Secretary-General expects all UN agencies to provide their first expenditure report on gender for the year 2025.

Tagging in IPMR provides an opportunity for UNEP to improve the visibility of gender-related financial allocations and supports more robust monitoring, transparency, accountability and reporting in the implementation of gender-responsive programming.

D. Programme oversight and management

i. Evaluation

a. Key results

In 2024, the UNEP Evaluation Office conducted a Formative Evaluation of the UNEP Delivery Model and associated Programmatic Approach. As expected of a formative process, the evaluation identified areas where traction is evident, areas requiring further discussion, operational guidance, and leadership as well as areas that have yet to gain traction to enable UNEP to operate more efficiently and effectively.

The Subprogramme Evaluation on Climate Action (2014–2023) has high strategic relevance for UNEP and the global community. The Subprogramme addresses decarbonization, dematerialization and resilience efforts and covers the adaptation and the mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement, including the transparency framework. The evaluation confirms the importance of UNEP in the global climate conversation and for the evolution and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

b. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and actions taken

The formative evaluation addressed a broad scope of work that had recently been introduced and was, therefore, still in the early stages of uptake. This led to a rich diversity of reported experiences, which were challenging to summarize, especially in the absence of clear performance indicators for the delivery model. However, the report has been recognized internally as an accurate reflection of the status as at May 2025. There is strong support to address the 16 recommendations outlined in the report, which will inform the development of the next MTS and the Programme of Work.

The evaluation of the Climate Action Subprogramme produced seven recommendations, some of which were later echoed in the formative evaluation. They include the observation that UNEP's MTS 2022–2025 results indicators primarily reflect institutional outputs rather than environmental or socio-economic outcomes. The evaluations also highlighted the need for greater transparency in the programmatic allocation of resources and recommended that UNEP ensure its strategic and management efforts are guided by, and measurable against, appropriate key performance indicators.

ii. Audit

UNEP has made significant progress in the proactive follow-up and implementation of outstanding recommendations. In 2024, the total number of outstanding recommendations decreased substantially, reflecting UNEP's continued commitment to address audit findings and strengthen management practices. The lower number of newly issued recommendations further suggests improvements in UNEP's internal processes and controls, highlighting the effectiveness of recent reforms. Together, these results underscore UNEP's dedication to continuous improvement, accountability and transparency across its operations.

a. Key results

The graph illustrates the trend and current status of outstanding recommendations issued by the Board of Auditors (BOA). Between mid-2023 and mid-2024, UNEP successfully reduced the total number of outstanding recommendations, demonstrating consistent efforts to close audit findings and enhance management practices.

This graph highlights UNEP's progress in addressing outstanding recommendations from the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). The reduction in both the volume of unresolved recommendations and the number of new recommendations issued reflects strengthened internal controls and improved management practices across the organization.

A key achievement was the issuance of the Partnership Policy and Procedures, which has significantly strengthened the organization's approach to partner management and made it possible to close several audit recommendations. The policy promotes innovative partnerships, fosters collaboration, minimizes duplication and integrates robust internal controls. Such improvements empower UNEP and MEA Secretariats to expand their roles as strategic partners in driving transformational change.

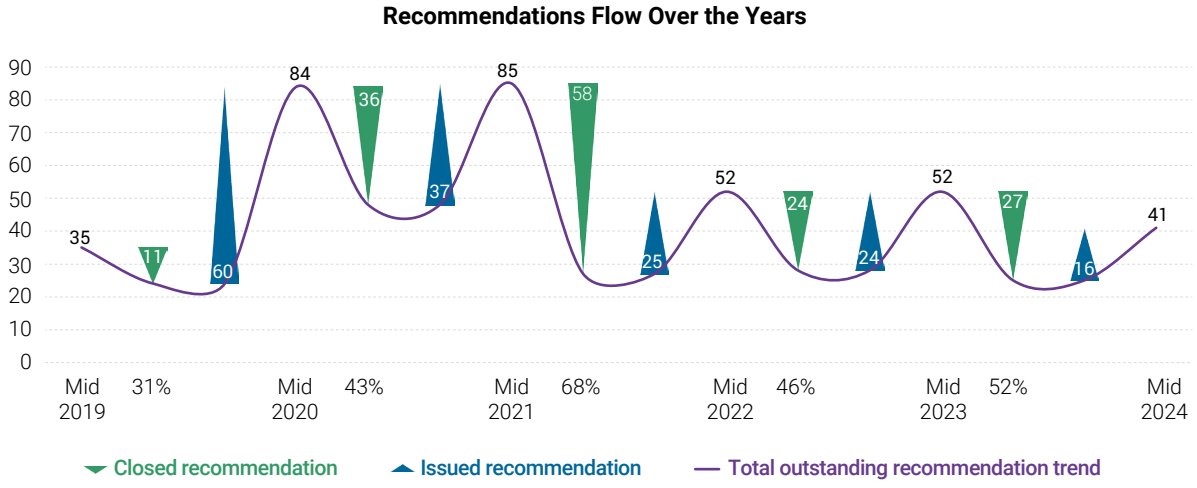


Fig. 12: Recommendations flow over the years

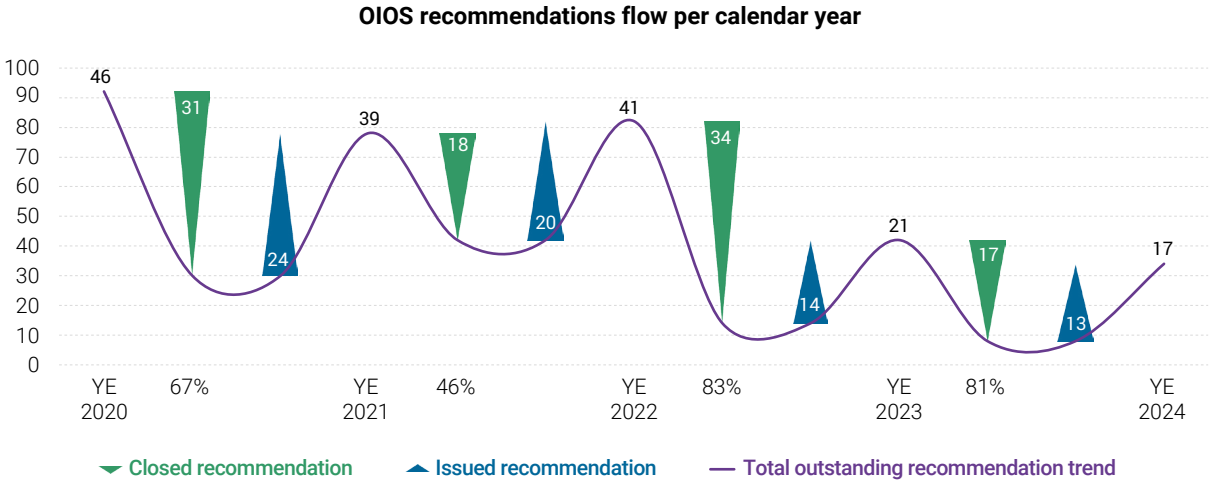


Fig. 13: OIOS recommendation flow per calender year

b. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and actions taken

UNEP welcomes the audit recommendations and considers them vital for its health and efficiency. Through audit observations, UNEP sees countless opportunities to strengthen its operations. UNEP has been challenged with the complex task of reviewing and analysing closing grants with long implementation periods. UNEP needs to ensure information is regularly updated and to address data gaps in the IPMR system. Additionally, it is crucial to flag ongoing phased projects that have not been selected for terminal evaluation and develop tools for tracking end dates. The auditors have indicated a need to roll out the Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework in UNEP's MEAs, divisions and offices. While this is a demanding exercise, especially for smaller offices, UNEP has used it as an opportunity to strengthen ERM processes and governance structures following a rigorous system review.

In response to audit findings, UNEP has implemented several key actions, including the development of a resource mobilization strategy, conducting cybersecurity assessments, updating the UNEP Programme and Project Management Manual and establishing a strategic plan for fleet management. Specific evaluation requirements were incorporated into the Programme of Work, and targeted training for UNEA resolution focal points was conducted. This resulted in the successful implementation of 27 audit recommendations during 2024.

iii. Risk management

a. Key results

UNEP has strengthened its governance and risk-management framework by adopting a new strategy following a UN System-wide best-practice review. Key actions include reestablishing the ERM Committee, updating the UNEP Risk Register and streamlining ERM processes. As a pilot organization, UNEP integrated its Risk Register and Treatment Plans into the new ERM Umoja tool, enhancing data management, decision-making and accountability. Tailored workshops have also been launched to ensure ERM and internal control compliance across UNEP-administered MEAs.

iv. Quarterly Business Review (QBR)

The Quarterly Business Review provides UNEP's Senior Management Team with a consolidated overview of organizational health through 14 key performance indicators reported by 18 Divisions and Regional Offices. The indicators cover project performance, the utilization of funds, human resource management, air travel compliance and the implementation of the BOA and OIOS audit recommendations.

In 2024, the QBR process contributed to tangible improvements in the management of projects and implementation of partner agreements. The integration of monthly reports on programme delivery further enhanced the monitoring of institutional performance. Additionally, the introduction of quarterly thematic surveys made it possible to carry out in-depth analyses of targeted management issues, providing insights that support evidence-based decision-making. The QBR remains a critical management tool for monitoring institutional performance, identifying operational bottlenecks and facilitating informed, actionable decision making.

v. Environmental and social safeguards

a. Key results

Strengthening environmental and social safeguards in UNEP projects: Project reviews revealed significant progress in UNEP's risk classification and in the integration of its safeguards. Overall, 72.2 per cent of projects were accurately categorized as moderate risk, reflecting improved capacity in risk identification during project preparation. One project was classified as high risk, while 75.4 per cent of all projects fell under the moderate-risk category. Among these, 89.6 per cent included safeguard-related management plans, demonstrating strong integration of environmental and social safeguards into project design and implementation.

Transparency and public disclosure: UNEP maintained a high level of transparency, with 96 per cent of GEF and GCF projects disclosing safeguard-related information through UNEP's Open Data portal. However, PoW projects did not disclose such information during this period owing to the transition to the new IPMR platform. Consequently, 2024 disclosures focused primarily on GEF and GCF projects.

Strengthening tools and capacity: To enhance operational guidance, UNEP developed four new safeguard templates the: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment; Stakeholder Engagement Plan; Environmental and Social Management Framework; and Environmental and Social Management Plan. This brings the total to seven.

Over 300 staff members participated in two dedicated safeguard dialogue sessions, deepening their understanding of Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework principles, application challenges and risk assessment in project preparation. UNEP ensured safeguard compliance across all projects through screening aligned with its Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework.

b. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and actions taken

While progress has been made in developing gender, stakeholder and safeguard risk-management plans, implementation, monitoring and reporting remain areas for improvement. Collaboration with executing partners on cross-cutting issues also requires strengthening.

To enhance oversight beyond project approval, UNEP reviewed 59 moderate-risk project-implementation reports in 2024, an increase from 40 in 2023. The review assessed safeguard monitoring, gender integration and stakeholder engagement. While moderate adherence to safeguards was observed, positive steps such as the creation of grievance redress mechanisms were noted. However, gaps persist in the reporting of specific environmental and social risks and their management.

To address such gaps, UNEP engaged two specialized consultants to support project managers in effectively managing safeguard risks during implementation. UNEP will continue scaling up capacity-building efforts, refining safeguard tools and promoting more adaptive safeguard strategies, including early risk identification and continuous monitoring. These steps will help streamline the application of safeguards, improve project performance and ensure more effective risk management throughout project implementation.

E. A trusted partner

i. Global Environment Facility

The remained a pivotal partner for UNEP throughout 2024, significantly reinforcing collective efforts to address pressing global environmental challenges. In 2024, projects and programmes where UNEP was an implementing agency received substantial funding, totalling US$269.8 million. This critical financial commitment enabled UNEP to advance strategic priorities, including significant investments. GEF funding supported UNEP's involvement in complex, multifocal area programmes such as the Sustainable Cities Integrated Programme and the Transformation Approach to Large Scale Investment in Support of the Implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative, demonstrating the GEF's crucial role in comprehensive, landscape-level interventions.

a. Key results



In Cameroon's western highlands, communities are restoring sacred forests degraded by deforestation and poor farming. A UNEP-led GEF-funded initiative empowers women and young people through sustainable land use, economic training and leadership. Such efforts protect biodiversity, improve livelihoods and revive cultural heritage, demonstrating the power of inclusive, community-led environmental restoration.



Led by UNEP with support from the GEF, marine sanctuaries also known as refugia in Thailand protect blue swimming crabs, which are vital to local livelihoods. With crab banks and fisheries refugia, communities protect egg-carrying females and restore habitats. The initiative responds to threats from overfishing, destructive practices and habitat loss, helping reverse the decline caused by decades of environmental degradation. These nature-based solutions boost biodiversity and income.



Urban farmers in Kingston, Jamaica, are battling climate change-induced droughts by adopting rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation. Led by UNEP with support from the GEF, the CityAdapt project aims to boost food security and resilience. The initiative, benefiting over 130,000 people, highlights sustainable agriculture as a key strategy in Jamaica's broader climate adaptation and national development plans.

b. Key developments

The GEF portfolio at UNEP plays a pivotal role in advancing the organization's strategic goals in climate action, nature action and pollution action. Through targeted investments and policy support, the GEF portfolio significantly enhances UNEP's PoW, driving measurable progress at both the national and global levels.

UNEP also contributed to the GEF's ongoing project cycle enhancements. Looking ahead, the initiation of discussions for the 9th Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF-9) presents a golden opportunity. Building on the robust foundations, GEF-9 promises to bring about even more impactful achievements in addressing the triple planetary crisis..

The unstoppable women of Guapi

In the small coastal town of Guapi, Colombia, Mary Luz Ante Orobio gathers with a group she proudly calls "the unstoppable women." Surrounding a simple wooden chest filled with loose cash, a ledger and a calculator, the women carefully track their finances. Orobio flips through the ledger, her eyes scanning the neatly recorded investments. After jotting down a few figures, she distributes cash among the group.

The women are part of one of 80 local savings and credit groups established in Colombia with support from planetGOLD, a programme led by UNEP. The groups provide rural communities reliant on small-scale gold mining with access to alternative financing, empowering them to invest in mercury-free technologies. Mercury, a highly toxic chemical, has been used in small-scale gold mining for over 3,000 years, causing devastating health impacts, including irreversible brain damage.

"There's a lot of illegal mining in this area, and it's polluting the environment," explains Orobio. "We want to change that. With our savings, women can upgrade their sluice boxes, buy new rugs, and invest in tools. This group gives women the opportunity to build their own small businesses and become independent of the money and resources brought in by men."

Adapted from PlanetGOLD Colombia



The evaporation of mercury during gold extraction releases toxic vapours *(©AFP/Enersto Benavides)*.

ii. Green Climate Fund (GCF)

a. Key developments

The GCF continues to engage with UNEP as a trusted partner, leveraging UNEP's global network and expertise on environmental issues. A key, enduring asset in the partnership is UNEP's ability to provide technical assistance and policy guidance aligned with the GCF's result areas on adaptation and mitigation.

UNEP's GCF portfolio grew by 29 per cent in 2024, reaching a total of 10 funded activities and 85 readiness and preparatory support projects, with a combined value of US$370 million. Notably, the GCF Board approved two new funded activities in Azerbaijan and Jordan, valued at US$75 million, and four readiness projects in Cameroon, Eritrea, Maldives, and Seychelles, worth US$8.8 million.

To enhance strategic alignment between the GCF portfolio and pipeline and UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work, the GCF relocated its Coordination Office to UNEP's Policy and Programme Division. This move is expected to strengthen UNEP's contribution to effective, coordinated programme delivery.

b. Key results

UNEP's Pacific Islands Programme is helping countries integrate climate resilience into decision-making at all levels. In the Cook Islands, a pilot inundation early-warning system was launched across 15 islands to help communities better prepare for rising sea levels. Niue meteorologists used UNEP-supported systems to analyse a recent severe weather event, strengthening the country's preparedness for future climate risks. Communication systems were upgraded across all 24 atolls in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, improving early-warning capabilities. In Tuvalu, UNEP's support for ocean services led to a new public-private partnership, unlocking income-generating opportunities for local communities.

Costa Rica offers a compelling example of effective, locally driven climate adaptation. By engaging local governments and stakeholders as part of the UNCCD National Action Plans process, the country identified vulnerable territories and tailored interventions accordingly. Local universities collaborated with the governments to develop climate action plans. This collaborative approach has brought climate-adaptation planning to the forefront at the local level, ensuring that actions are tailored to community needs.

In the Gambia, more than 30,000 hectares of degraded forests, mangroves and farmland have been restored through UNEP-supported efforts, helping communities reduce the impacts of floods and droughts. The project has also established 163 sustainable forest-based businesses, generating millions in revenue, promoting local stewardship of natural resources and supporting the country's shift to a green economy.



Project investments support mangrove restoration *(©UNEP/ Hannah McNeish).*


©Yayasan Rimbawan Muda, Indonesia)

5
A worthwhile investment

"Fiji strongly believes that through our collective collaboration and partnership towards the effective and inclusive implementation of global instruments and agreements, we can strengthen efforts in addressing threats posed by global challenges including of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution - and their impacts on human health and the environment."

Filimoni Wainiqolo Vosarogo, Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, 29/02/2024

"I express Norway's strong support for UNEP and its crucial role in giving voice to our global environment and all the species we share this planet with. Norway, as a significant contributor to the Environment Fund, encourages all Member States to help ensure that UNEP is adequately funded to deliver on its' important mandate going forward."

Andreas Bjelland Eriksen, Minister for Climate and Environment, Norway, 29/02/2024

UNEP has been a leading advocate for the environment and a trusted partner for over 50 years, providing science-based advice to policymakers and decision-makers to support action on environmental challenges. UNEP—Your Partner For People and Planet presents an overview of UNEP—its mission, vision, strategy and action for tackling the three planetary environmental crises. It presents environmental highlights from the past five decades, shows how UNEP works in partnerships and explains why it is crucial that funding provided to UNEP keeps pace with the growing expectations placed on the organization to deliver results in support of people and the planet.

A. Budget performance

i. Introduction

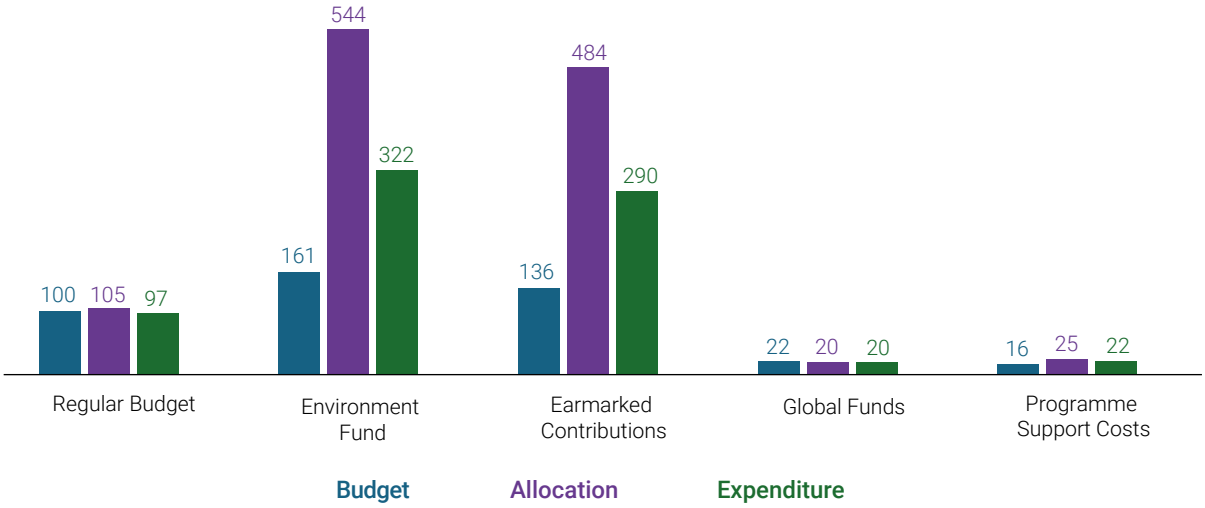
The overall budget for 2024 was US$435 million, however the allocation—which is based on the available financial resources at the time of approval of the allocation, including unspent balances from previous years—was US$1.2 billion. The amount spent against this allocation was US$751 million. The expenditure rate against the allocation for the core funds (Environment Fund, Regular Budget and Programme Support Costs) was over 90 per cent. The expenditure rate for earmarked and global funds is approximately 60 per cent owing, among other things, to geopolitical factors affecting implementing partners.1

2024 financial status by funding sources

Fund	Budget	Allocation	Expenditure
Environment Fund	100	105	97
Earmarked Funds	161	544	322
Global Funds	136	484	290
Regular Budget	22	20	20
Programme Support Costs	16	25	22
Total	**435**	**1,178**	**751**

1 Based on the UN Secretariat interpretation and application of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), UNEP's financial and administrative management platform, Umoja, does not allow for a breakdown of multi-year contributions into annual figures for income.

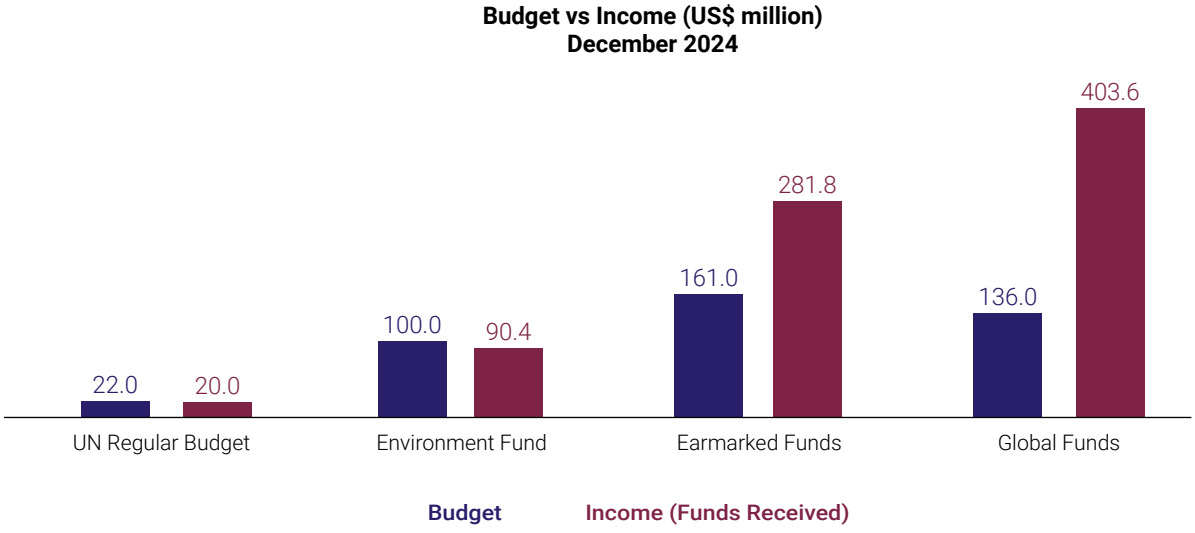
2024 UNEP financial performance by source funding as at 31 December 2024 (US$ million)*



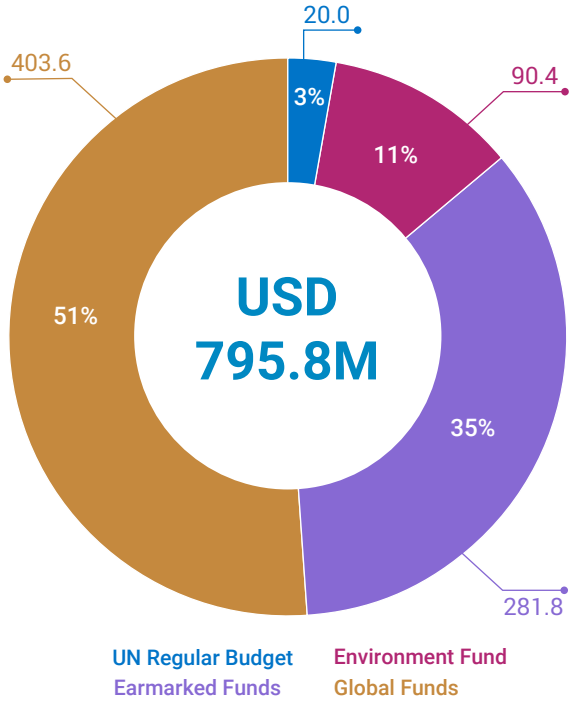
*The figures do not include conventions and protocols administered by UNEP.

ii. Overview of income

Annual budget versus income (in million US$) January–December 2024



Income per Source of Funds (US$ millions)



iii. Core contributions

The Environment Fund and the UN Regular Budget jointly form UNEP's core funding that supports the delivery of its mandate and approved PoW. The core funding gives UNEP the flexibility to implement the programme as agreed by Member States and to strategically respond to emerging challenges.

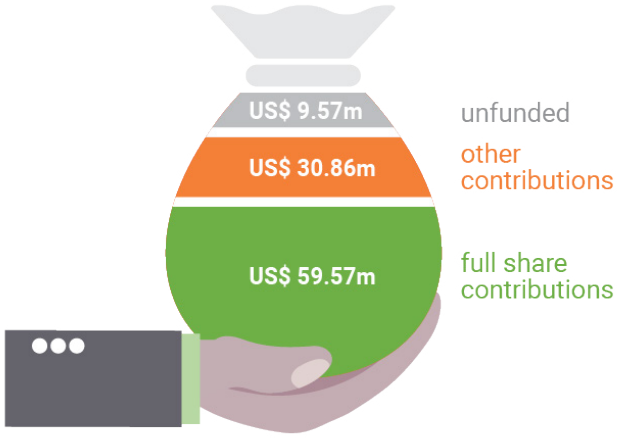
a. United Nations Regular Budget

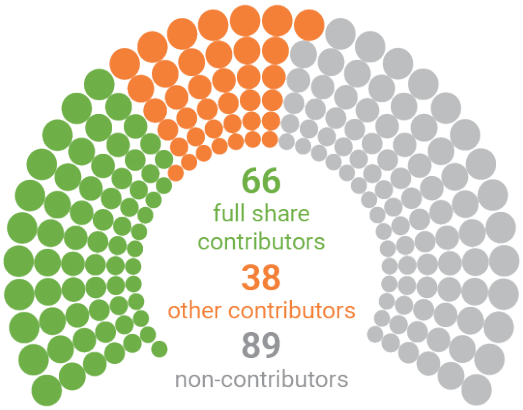
The United Nations Regular Budget provided US$20 million to UNEP for the period January– December 2024 and constituted three per cent of the total income. It covers substantive support for the governing bodies and the coordination of environmental programmes in the United Nations System. It also ensures effective cooperation with the relevant global scientific and professional communities.

b. The Environment Fund

The Environment Fund is the financial backbone of the organization and provides UNEP with core resources that are essential for results-focused and balanced programme delivery, with robust oversight. By 31 July 2025, the 2024 Environment Fund income amounted to US$90.43, million which includes 2024 contributions received in 2025. The contributions were received from 104 Member States, which represents 54 per cent of the 193 Member States. Out of the 104 Member States, 66 (64 per cent) contributed their full share as per the voluntary indicative scale of contributions (VISC). Additionally, 101 Member States have paid their 2024 pledges as at 31 July 2025.

UNEP is grateful to all these contributors and wishes to give special thanks to the 66 Member States that have provided their full share and to the top 15 Member States who have provided 89 per cent of the income to the Environment Fund.





Furthermore, UNEP appreciates the increased stability and predictability provided by multi-year agreements and/or pledges from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway and South Africa, which amounted to US$35.14 million or 39 per cent of the Environment Fund income for 2024.

iv. Earmarked contributions

a. Earmarked funds

Earmarked contributions are funds provided by funding partners and are either softly earmarked for a specific theme or sub-programme or tightly earmarked at project or country level. The main purpose of earmarked contributions is to enable UNEP to expand and replicate the results of its core work, including by building capacity in more countries and with more partners.

In 2024, earmarked funds received (including multi-year contributions to be applied against future years) amounted to US$281.8 million. Earmarked funds were provided by governments (17 per cent), United Nations organizations (14 per cent), the European Commission (five per cent), UNEP FI (three per cent), foundations and NGOs (one per cent) and the private sector (0.2 per cent). Where possible, UNEP urges Member States and other financial partners to consider soft earmarking to increase flexibility for programming and efficiency in programme implementation, ideally to the Planetary Funds (launched in 2022). The three funds have so far attracted financing from Belgium, Czechia, Norway and the Philippines for a total of US$ 30million since their launch. Out of this, US$6.1 million was received in 2024. Other softly earmarked funds in 2024 were received from Sweden. Softly earmarked funds amounted to five per cent of all earmarked funds in 2024.

b. Global funds

The funds provided by the GEF and the GCF are earmarked to specific programmes and projects. In 2024 these global funds amounted to 51 per cent of total income divided between the GEF (79 per cent) and GCF (21 percent).

v. Funding partners

The success of UNEP depends on partners who champion and fund its mission. UNEP is grateful to all partners who provide financial support. Every contribution matters.

UNEP recognizes and is grateful for the continued support of the top15 Member States who provided 89 per cent of the income to the Environment Fund and to the top 15 funding partners who were instrumental in providing 91 per cent of the total earmarked income. Their significant contributions have been vital in ensuring UNEP's ability to deliver on its priorities and support Member States in achieving their environmental goals.

Environment fund contributions for 2024

CONTRIBUTIONS EQUAL TO FULL SHARE ***

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

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Top 15 contributors to earmarked funds (January–December 2024)

Funding partners	US$*
Global Environment Facility	320.1
UN bodies	95.2
Green Climate Fund	83.6
Germany	47.8
European Commission	37.6
UNEP Finance Initiative	22.9
United States of America	10.6
Denmark	9.1
Japan	8.5
Sweden	7.6
Italy	5.9
Foundation/NGOs	5.2
Switzerland	5.0
United Kingdom	4.1
Belgium	3.4

*in US$ millions

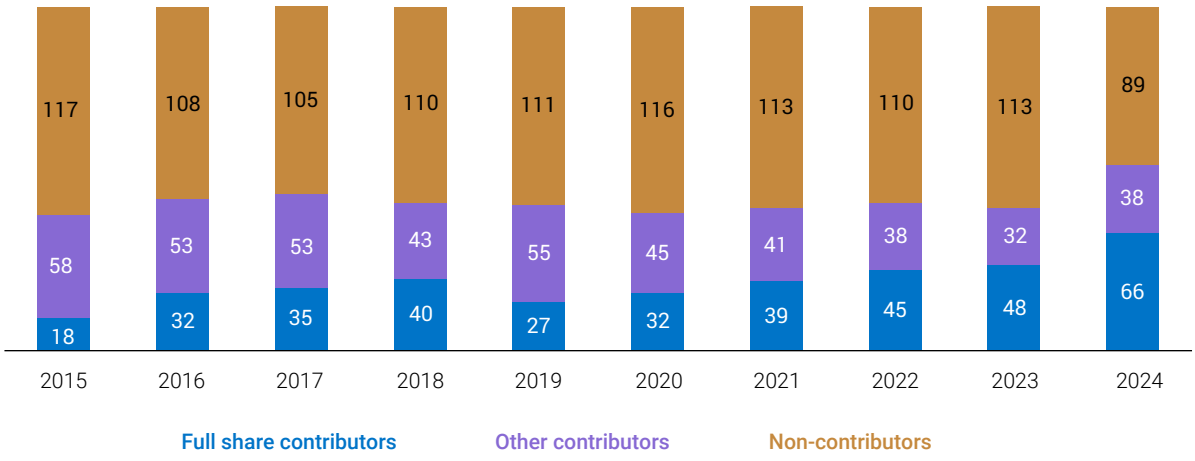
Member States that contributed their full share as represented by the VISC (January–December 2024)

UNEP thanks all the 104 Member States that contributed in 2024 to the Environment Fund and extends its deep appreciation to the 66 who led by example and provided funding at or above the level of their full share of the budget as established by the VISC.

vi. Resource mobilization strategy

Resource mobilization efforts, including the funding dialogues at the global, regional and bilateral levels, have played a big part in strengthening the funding base of the Environment Fund. The proportion of full-share contributors (out of all contributors), as determined by the VISC, has tripled from 23 per cent in 2015 to 64 per cent in 2024, when 66 out of 104 contributors provided their full share. The annual contributions exceeded the US$90 million mark in 2024, the second time in a row.

Environment Fund Member States contribution 2015–2024
193 Member States



UNEP has continued its outreach efforts to demonstrate its value as a partner of choice in addressing the environmental challenges. During UNEA-6, a joint One UNEP exhibition showcased results achieved and included a call for action to partners to contribute core and other flexible funding to UNEP. The booklet UNEP-Your Partner for People and Planet, also became available in Arabic and Russian in 2024, in addition to previous language versions in English, French and Spanish.

At the funding dialogue during the 11th annual subcommittee of the CPR, the Secretariat presented an overview of UNEP's financial status and outlook on challenges and opportunities, including an update on developments regarding the widening of the funding base, better recognition of funding partners and ways in which to strengthen resource mobilization for the Environment Fund and the Planetary Funds. The Secretariat will continue to implement the recommendations from this and previous funding dialogues.

To diversify funding sources for a healthier and more stable financial outlook, UNEP has started a comprehensive exercise to develop an institutional strategy, framework and policies for outreach to philanthropies.

With regards to the visibility of funding partners, UNEP expressed its appreciation of all the top 15 contributors and Member States that contributed their full share of the Environment Fund budget in 2024. This was conveyed through social media and several articles, on the partnerships between UNEP and a Member State, that were published on the website.

B. Human resources

i. Key results

Gender parity and geographical diversity: In 2024, UNEP surpassed UN gender parity targets with 57 per cent female representation at professional levels, ranking fourth among large UN entities. UNEP increased professional staff from Africa by six per cent, Latin America by six per cent, Asia-Pacific by eight per cent and Eastern Europe by 26 per cent. The proportion represented by Western Europe and Others, and the USA remains a vital contributor, making up 37 per cent and five per cent of staff, respectively.

Outreach: UNEP delivered 31 targeted outreach initiatives, engaging over 15,900 participants globally. Through a strategic blend of online, in-person, and hybrid events in six languages, UNEP strengthened its employer brand around the world. These efforts resulted in a rise in applications from less represented regions, reinforcing UNEP's commitment to geographical diversity and positioning the organization as an employer of choice.

Young Talent Pipeline: In 2024, UNEP welcomed on board the first cohort of the Young Talent Pipeline, selecting candidates from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Eastern Europe, and significantly enhancing geographical diversity. The launch of the second cohort in early 2025 will reinforce UNEP's commitment to developing future environmental leaders from less represented regions, strengthening the organization's global talent base and impact.

Learning and development: UNEP significantly enhanced operational efficiency and staff capacity through targeted learning and development initiatives. The new Corporate Induction Programme accelerated new employee integration, while Unconscious Bias training fostered a more inclusive workplace. Additionally, the Buddy programme, active in 15 duty stations, and tailored leadership dialogues strengthened mentorship and leadership effectiveness, reinforcing UNEP's commitment to continuous professional growth and organizational excellence.

ii. Overview

As of 31 December 2024, UNEP employed 1,383 staff members, comprising 1,087 (79 per cent) in the Secretariat and 296 (21 per cent) in the MEAs and Conventions. This reflects an increase of 18 staff members compared to 31 December 2023. Of the 1,383 staff members, 840 (61 per cent) were in the professional and higher categories, 12 (<one per cent) in the national professional officer category, and 531 (38 per cent) in the general service category. The number of staff members at the P5 and above level is186 (13 per cent).

A clear distinction exists between the UNEP Secretariat and the MEAs. This structure highlights UNEP's dual administrative and programmatic framework, where the Secretariat manages core operational and policy functions, while MEA Secretariats serve as entities supporting international environmental agreements under the authority of the respective Conference of Parties.

UNEP staff component 2024 (31December)

UNEP Staff Component	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Secretariat	1	2	6	42	94	234	205	77	661	12	414	1,087
MEAs	0	1	4	8	28	50	55	33	179	0	117	296
Total	**1**	**3**	**10**	**50**	**122**	**284**	**260**	**110**	**840**	**12**	**531**	**1,383**

UNEP staff component 2023 (31December)

UNEP Staff Component	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Secretariat	1	2	6	42	94	230	212	79	666	10	406	1,082
MEAs	0	0	4	6	29	50	45	32	166	0	117	283
Total	**1**	**2**	**10**	**48**	**123**	**280**	**257**	**111**	**832**	**10**	**523**	**1,365**

UNEP staff component 2022 (31December)

UNEP Staff Component	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Secretariat	1	3	8	25	63	132	148	70	450	6	370	826
MEAs	0	0	3	28	67	133	94	35	360	7	137	504
Total	**1**	**3**	**11**	**53**	**130**	**265**	**242**	**105**	**810**	**13**	**507**	**1,330**

iii. UNEP overall gender distribution

As of 31 December 2024, the overall gender distribution in UNEP was 62 per cent (861) female and 38 per cent (522) male across all categories. This overall distribution has remained stable since 2022. The representation of women is 100 per cent at the Under-Secretary-General level, 57 per cent (477) at the professional level, and 71 per cent (379) at the general service level. In 2024, the UNEP Secretariat employed 1,087 staff, out of whom 675 (62 per cent) were female and 412 (38 per cent) were male staff. The gender parity targets were met at levels within the professional and above categories. UNEP continually monitored the numbers to ensure gender parity was maintained within the set margins.

Gender distribution 2024

Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	3	8	28	61	152	153	71	477	5	379	861
Male	0	0	2	22	61	132	107	39	363	7	152	522
Total	1	3	10	50	122	284	260	110	840	12	531	1,383
Female%	100%	100%	80%	56%	50%	54%	59%	65%	57%	42%	71%	62%
Male%	0%	0%	20%	44%	50%	46%	41%	35%	43%	58%	29%	38%

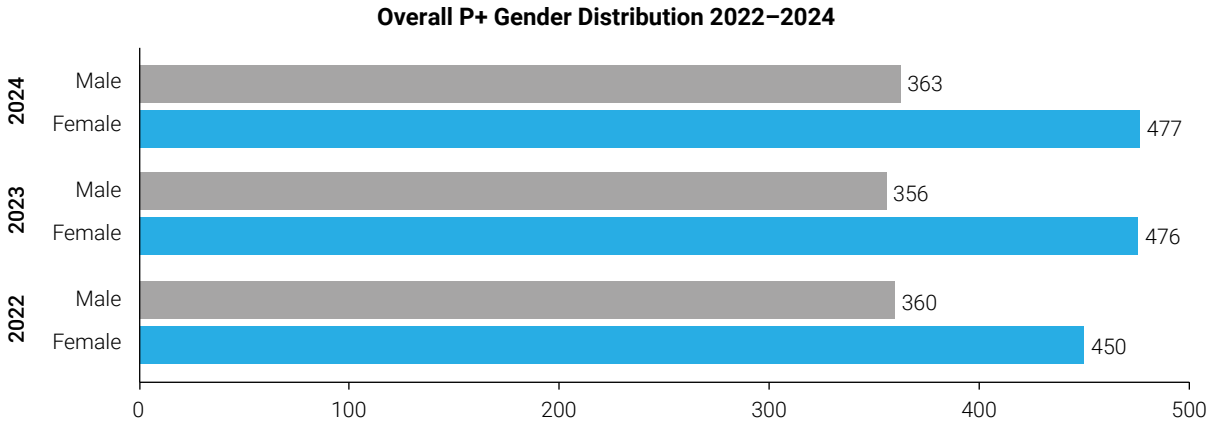
Gender distribution 2023

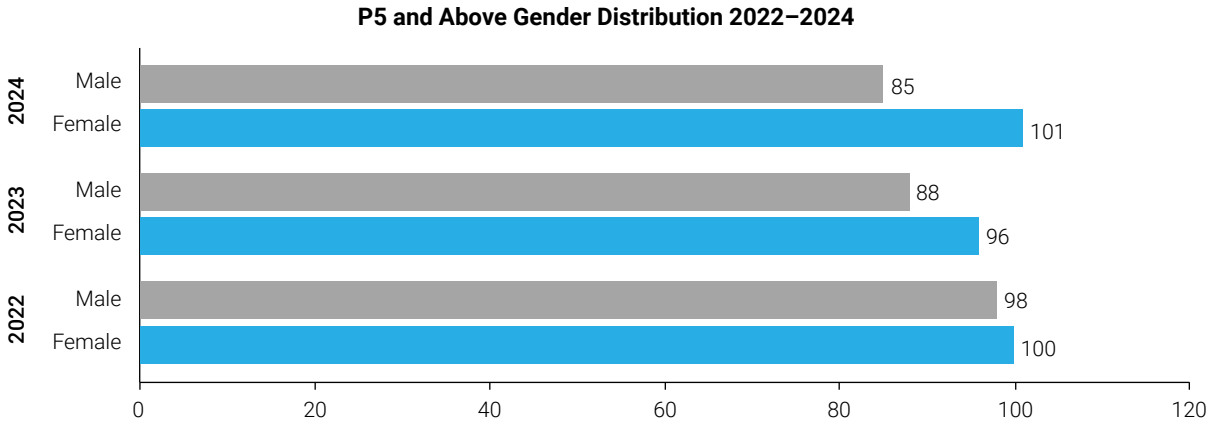
Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	2	7	28	58	143	160	77	476	4	373	853
Male	0	0	3	20	65	137	97	34	356	6	150	512
Total	1	2	10	48	123	280	257	111	832	10	523	1,365
Female%	100%	100%	70%	58%	47%	51%	62%	69%	57%	40%	71%	62%
Male%	0%	0%	30%	42%	53%	49%	38%	31%	43%	60%	29%	38%

Gender distribution 2022

Gender	USG	ASG	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Total P+	Total NPO	Total GS	Total
Female	1	3	8	25	63	132	148	70	450	6	370	826
Male	0	0	3	28	67	133	94	35	360	7	137	504
Total	1	3	11	53	130	265	242	105	810	13	507	1,330
Female	100%	100%	73%	47%	48%	50%	61%	67%	56%	46%	73%	62%
Male	0%	0%	27%	53%	52%	50%	39%	33%	44%	54%	27%	38%

Gender distribution at the P5 and above has remained at 54 per cent (101) female and 44 per cent (85) male.





iv. Regional representation

a. Overall regional representation

As of 31 December 2024, UNEP employed staff from 133 countries, an increase of three countries from 31 December 2023. UNEP is dedicated to enhancing regional representation of countries that are currently unrepresented or underrepresented. The regional representation profile for 2024 is provided in the table below:

Regional representation of UNEP Staff—2024

Region	Total
African Group	466
Asia Pacific Group	255
Eastern European Group	55
Latin American and Caribbean Group	134
Stateless	1
USA*	41
Western European and Others Group*	431
Total	**1,383**

* The USA is grouped separately in this edition and moving forward.

The table below summarizes the regional representation among UNEP staff as of 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024. The period saw an increase in the number of staff hired from the less-represented regions, reflecting UNEP's commitment to fostering geographical diversity within its workforce.

Region	Total as of 31 December 2023	Total as of 31 December 2024	Variation
African Group	449	466	+17
Asia Pacific Group	246	255	+9
Eastern European Group	52	55	+3
Latin American and Caribbean Group	126	134	+8
Stateless	0	1	+1
USA*	43	41	-2
Western European and Others Group*	449	431	-18
Total	**1,365**	**1,383**	**+18**

*The USA is grouped separately in this edition and moving forward.

Region	No. of Staff
African Group	165
Asia Pacific Group	187
Eastern European Group	48
Latin American and Caribbean Group	87
Stateless	1
USA*	38
Western European and Others Group*	314
Total	**840**

* The USA is grouped separately in this edition and moving forward.

In the professional and above categories staff regional representation increased as follows: in the Eastern Europe group by 26 per cent; in the Africa by six per cent; in the Asia Pacific group by six per cent; and the Latin America and Caribbean group by six per cent. In the Western European and others group the representation dropped by seven per cent and in the USA by five per cent.

The table and chart below show the changes in regional geographical representation in professional and higher-level positions. These data are compared to the status of geographical diversity as of March 2022, which coincides with the release of UNEA Resolution E.A.5/13 that underscores the importance of equitable geographical distribution. Additionally, a comparative analysis of the same period from the previous year is included.

b. Regional representation of Professional and above

Overall regional representation—professional level and above											
Regional distribution	Professional and above-level								Total Dec 2024	Total Dec 2023	Variation by nos.
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5	P4	P3	P2			
African Group		1	3	4	30	57	54	16	165	156	+9
Asia Pacific Group		1	3	11	21	57	63	31	187	177	+10
Eastern European Group				4	7	15	10	12	48	38	+10
Latin American and Caribbean Group			2	5	15	24	32	9	87	82	+5
Stateless								1	1	0	+1
USA*				8	6	12	12		38	40	-2
Western European and others Group*	1	1	2	18	43	119	89	41	314	339	-25
Total	**1**	**3**	**10**	**50**	**122**	**284**	**260**	**110**	**840**	**832**	**+8**

* The USA is grouped separately in this edition and moving forward.

UNEP overall P+ regional geographical representation trend 2022-2024					
Region	31-Mar-2022	31-Dec-2023	31-Dec-2024	2023–2024 % variance	2022–2024 % variance
Africa group	1422	156	165	+6%	+16%
Asia Pacific group	153	177	187	+6%	+22%
Eastern Europe group	28	38	48	+26%	+71%
Latin America and Caribbean group	72	82	87	+6%	+21%
Stateless	1	0	1	0%	0%
USA*	50	40	38	-5%	-24%
Western European and others group*	338	339	314	-7%	-7%
Total	**784**	**833**	**840**	**+1%**	**+7%**

* The USA is grouped separately in this edition and moving forward.

c. Regional representation of P5 staff and above

Region	No of Staff P5 & Above
Africa group	38
Asia-Pacific group	36
Eastern Europe Group	11
Latin American and Caribbean group	22
USA*	14
Western Europe and others group*	65
Total	**186**

* The USA is grouped separately in this edition and moving forward.

Overall regional representation P5 and above								
Regional Distribution	P-5 level and above					Total Dec 2024	Total Dec 2023	Variation
	USG	ASG	D2	D1	P5			
Africa group		1	3	4	30	38	37	+3%
Asia Pacific group		1	3	11	21	36	33	+9%
Eastern European group				4	7	11	11	0%
Latin America and Caribbean group			2	5	15	22	23	-4%
USA*				8	6	14	15	7%
Western Europe and others group*	1	1	2	18	43	65	65	-1%
Total	**1**	**3**	**10**	**50**	**122**	**186**	**184**	**+1%**

* The USA is grouped separately in this edition and moving forward.

v. Country representation

As of 31 December 2024, UNEP employed 1,383 staff from 133 different countries. Among them, 840 are professional (P+) staff from 124 countries; 531 are general service (GS) staff from 69 countries, while 12 national officers (NO) are from 10 countries. A detailed breakdown of each country's representation is provided below.

Number of staff by country in descending order

Country	G	NO	P+	Grand Total	Country	G	NO	P+	Grand Total	Country	G	NO	P+	Grand Total
Kenya	278	1	58	337	Rwanda	1		4	5	Gambia	1		1	2
France	27		40	67	Jordan			5	5	Bulgaria			2	2
Canada	33		32	65	Romania			5	5	Norway	1		1	2
Germany	9		41	50	Nepal	1		4	5	Mauritius			2	2
United Kingdom	12		35	47	Georgia			5	5	Libya			2	2
USA	3		38	41	Argentina	1		4	5	Eritrea	1		1	2
The People's Republic of China	4		28	32	United Republic of Tanzania		1	4	5	Belarus	1		1	2
Italy	4		27	31	New Zealand			5	5	Croatia			2	2
India	1	2	26	29	Syrian Arab Republic	2		3	5	Paraguay	1	1		2
Spain	1		27	28	Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of)	1		4	5	Saudi Arabia			2	2
Japan	3		24	27	Peru			4	4	Albania			2	2
Lebanon	12		15	27	Senegal	1		3	4	Djibouti			2	2
Brazil	4		20	24	Morocco			4	4	Yemen			2	2
Thailand	20		3	23	Honduras	3		1	4	Latvia			2	2
Republic of Korea	1		19	20	Fiji			4	4	Zimbabwe			2	2
Philippines	12		7	19	Portugal			4	4	Mozambique			1	1
Finland			18	18	Costa Rica			4	4	Nicaragua			1	1
Panama	16	1	1	18	Viet Nam	2	1	1	4	Barbados			1	1
Switzerland	7		10	17	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1		3	4	Slovenia	1			1
Greece	8		9	17	Zambia	2		2	4	Botswana			1	1
South Africa			17	17	Mauritania			4	4	Somalia			1	1
Netherlands	1		16	17	Iraq		1	2	3	Myanmar			1	1
Colombia	1		15	16	Azerbaijan	1		2	3	North Macedonia			1	1
Uganda	3		13	16	Ukraine	2		1	3	Samoa			1	1
Russian Federation	4		9	13	Hungary			3	3	Madagascar			1	1
Mexico	2	1	9	12	Uruguay	1		2	3	Seychelles			1	1
Belgium	3		8	11	Uzbekistan	2		1	3	Grenada			1	1
Sweden			11	11	Ireland	1		2	3	Bhutan			1	1
Austria	1		9	10	Mongolia			3	3	Sudan			1	1
Jamaica	9			9	Ecuador			3	3	Republic of Moldova	1			1
Australia	1		8	9	Algeria			3	3	the State of Palestine			1	1
Cameroon	1		8	9	Ghana	1		2	3	Namibia			1	1
Pakistan	1		6	7	Chile	1		2	3	Guyana			1	1
Bangladesh	1		6	7	Trinidad and Tobago			3	3	Estonia			1	1
Egypt			7	7	Sri Lanka	1		2	3	Haiti	1			1
Ethiopia	2		5	7	Kyrgyzstan			3	3	Eswatini			1	1
Poland			7	7	Côte d'Ivoire	2			2	Cabo Verde			1	1
Denmark	1		5	6	Tunisia	1		1	2	Niger			1	1
Saint Lucia			6	6	Cuba			2	2	Togo	1			1

Country	G	NO	P+	Grand Total
Indonesia		2	4	6
Nigeria	2		4	6
Islamic Republic of Iran			6	6
Kazakhstan	1		5	6
Türkiye			5	5
Malawi		1	4	5

Country	G	NO	P+	Grand Total
Serbia	1		1	2
Turkmenistan	1		1	2
Singapore			2	2
Montenegro			2	2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1		1	2
Czechia			2	2

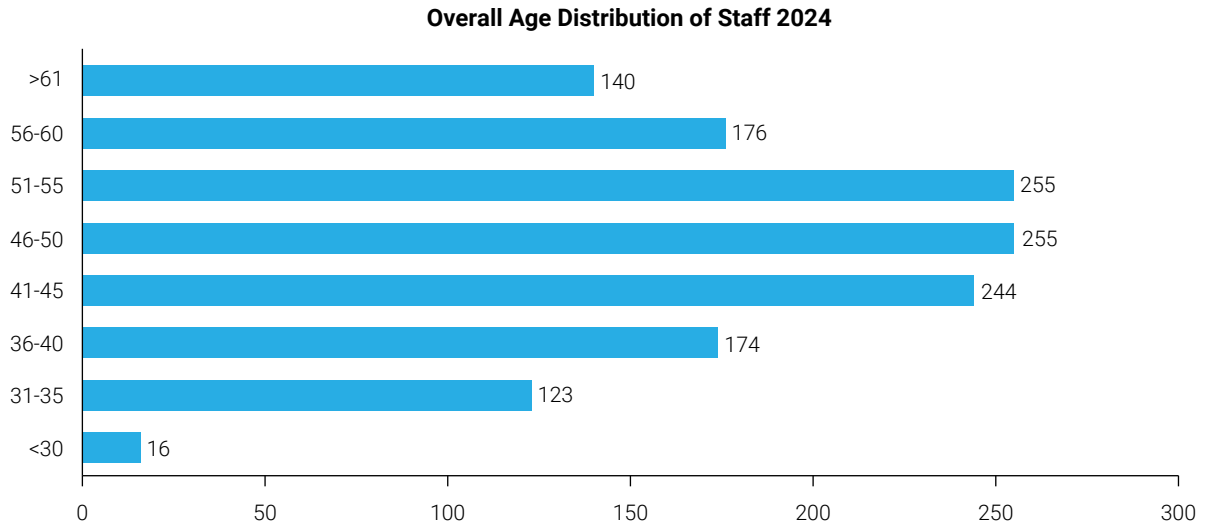
Country	G	NO	P+	Grand Total
Burkina Faso			1	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1			1
Lithuania	1			1
Luxembourg			1	1
Grand Total	531	12	840	1,383

vi. Age distribution

As of 31 December 2024, UNEP staff in the 41–55 age group stands at 18 per cent, and staff members in the age group 30 years and below remained at one per cent. Staff members who will reach the mandatory retirement age in the next four years represent 10 per cent of the workforce.

Overall age distribution of staff—December 2022–2024

Age Category	2022	2023	2024
	No. of Staff	No. of Staff	No. of Staff
<30	12	12	16
31–35	120	126	123
36–40	174	180	174
41–45	226	240	244
46–50	255	261	255
51–55	236	227	255
56–60	177	182	176
1	130	137	140
Grand total	**1,330**	**1,365**	**1,383**



vii. Challenges, opportunities, lessons learnt and changes made

In-person outreach briefings with the Committee of Permanent Representatives offer a strategic platform for dialogue, advancing UNEP's efforts to strengthen geographical diversity through closer collaboration with Member States. The expansion of learning and development programmes, including career coaching and leadership dialogues, will continue enhancing staff capabilities, reinforcing UNEP's adaptability and alignment with the UN System Leadership Framework.

Sustained collaboration with Member States, academic institutions and other partners is essential to improving initiatives like the Junior Professional Officers Programme and the Young Talent Pipeline. Aligning talent strategies with organizational goals has proved effective in advancing UNEP's mandate. Structured learning, mentoring and proactive leadership engagement are key to workforce integration, resilience and long-term impact.


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Annexes

Annex 1: Subprogramme indicator performance

Thematic subprogrammes:

Climate Action subprogramme

100% attained **60 to <100%** partially attained **below 60%** not attained



QN (i)	QN (ii) (a)	QN (ii) (b)	QN (iii)
Target: 146	Target: US$755 million	Target: US$451 billion	Target: 115
201	**US$937.68 million**	**US$672.39 billion**	**156**

QN (i): Number of national, subnational and private sector actors that adopt climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies and policies with UNEP support.

QN (ii): Amounts provided and mobilized in $ per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the $100 billion commitment through to 2025 with UNEP support.

(a) United States dollars per year invested by countries or institutions for climate action.

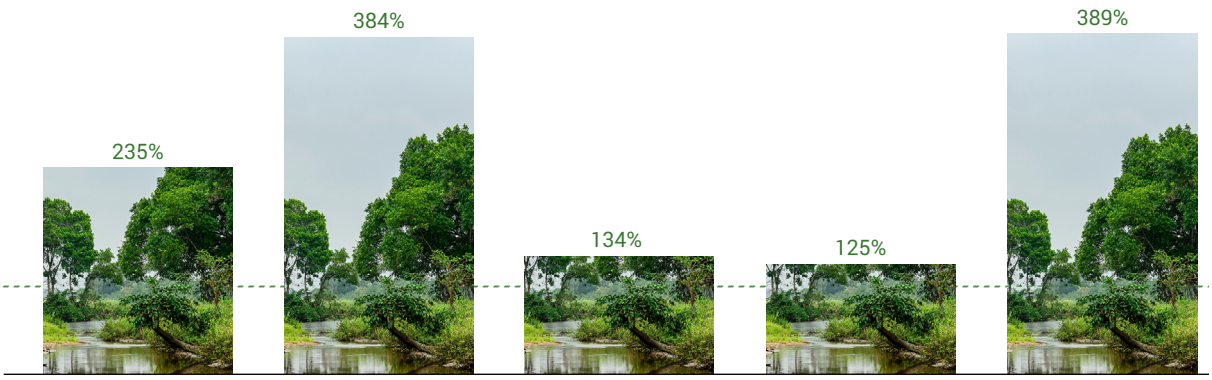
(b) United States dollars of decarbonized assets.

QN (iii): Number of national, subnational and private sector actors reporting under the enhanced transparency arrangements of the Paris Agreement with UNEP support.

***QN:** Quantitative Indicator

Nature action subprogramme

100% attained **60 to <100%** partially attained **below 60%** not attained



QN (i)	QN (ii) (a)	QN (ii) (b)	QN (iii)	QN (iv)
Target: 46	Target: 80	US$200 million	Target: 177	2,880,000 hectares
108	**307**	**US$268.25 million**	**221**	**11,205,280.91 ha**

QN (i): Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity.

QN (ii): Number of financial, public- and private sector entities whose financial decisions and risk management frameworks take biodiversity and ecosystem services into consideration, and the increase in financial flows towards ecosystem management as a result of UNEP support.

- **(a1)** Number of financial institutions that have a set of biodiversity targets for their impact.
- **(a2)** Number of public- and private-sector entities that consider biodiversity and ecosystem services in their financial decision-making and risk management frameworks.
- **(b1)** Increase in inclusive wealth of countries, and in particular natural capital, as a result of public and private investment in nature.
- **(b2)** United States dollars unlocked for investment in support of sustainable ecosystem management and/or restoration.

QN (iii): Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities and entities that incorporate, with UNEP support, biodiversity and ecosystem-based approaches into development and sectoral plans, policies and processes for the sustainable management and/or restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas.

QN (iv): Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration.

***QN:** Quantitative Indicator

Chemicals and pollutions action subprogramme

100% attained **60 to <100%** partially attained **below 60%** not attained



QN (i)
Target: 329
300

QN (ii)
Target: 40
44

QN (iii)
Target: 125
159

QN (iv)
3500 tons
3298.00 tons

QN (i): Number of Governments that, with UNEP support, are developing or implementing policies, strategies, legislation or action plans that promote sound chemicals and waste management and/or the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the existing framework on chemicals and waste.

QN (ii): Number of Governments developing or implementing policies, strategies and mechanisms to prevent or reduce waste and ensure environmentally sound waste treatment or disposal, including in the context of disaster or conflict-related environmental emergencies, with UNEP support.

QN (iii): Number of policy, regulatory, financial and technical measures developed with UNEP support to reduce pollution in air, water, soil and the ocean.

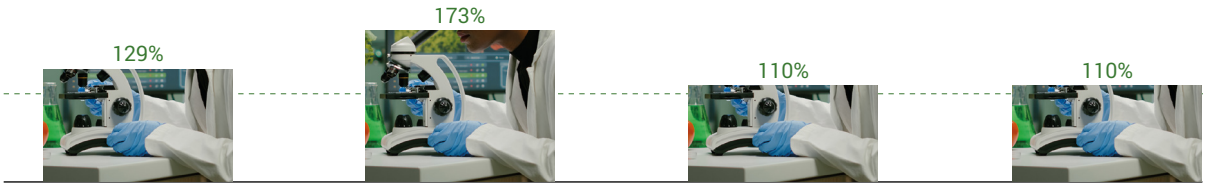
QN (iv): Reduction in releases of pollutants to the environment achieved with UNEP support.

***QN:** Quantitative Indicator

Foundational subprogrammes:

Science policy subprogramme

100% attained **60 to <100%** partially attained **below 60%** not attained



QN (i)
Target: 100
110

QN (ii)
Target: 148
170

QN (iii)
Target: 20
22

QN (iv)
Target: 120
130

QN (i): Number of countries and national, regional and subnational authorities that, as a result of UNEP support, have strengthened capacity to develop sound environmental data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning systems.

QN (ii): Number of relevant global, regional and national forums, institutions and Governments using data, statistics, scientific assessments and early warning and foresight systems provided by UNEP for catalysing policymaking and action.

QN (iii): Number of United Nations agencies and multilateral environmental agreement secretariats using data and statistics on environmental trends and assessments identified through UNEP to catalyse policy recommendations.

QN (iv): Number of United Nations country teams using data and statistics on environmental trends and assessments identified through UNEP to catalyse policy recommendations.

***QN:** Quantitative Indicator

Environmental governance subprogrammes

100% attained **60 to <100%** partially attained **below 60%** not attained



QN (i)	QN (ii)	QN (iii)	QN (iv)
Target: 134	Target: 62	Target: 264	Target: 77
134	**62**	**314**	**115**

QN (i): Number of countries supported by UNEP under the Montevideo Programme in developing and implementing environmental rule of law and related technical and institutional capacities to address internationally agreed environmental goals.

QN (ii): Number of international legal agreements or instruments advanced or developed with UNEP support to address emerging or internationally agreed environmental goals.

QN (iii): Number of plans, approaches, strategies, policies, action plans or budgeting processes of entities at the national, regional and global levels that include environmental goals as a result of UNEP support.

QN (iv): Number of entities at the national, regional or global levels that UNEP has supported in developing integrated approaches and tools for enhanced coordination, cooperation and synergies for the coherent implementation of MEAs.

***QN:** Quantitative Indicator

Enabling subprogrammes:

Finance and economic transformations subprogramme

100% attained **60 to <100%** partially attained **below 60%** not attained



QN (i)
Target: 159
177

QN (ii)
Target: 1248
1267

QN (iii)
Target: 331
403

QN (i): Number of economic, finance, industry and trade policies, practices, partnerships and initiatives put in place or implemented to enable just transitions.

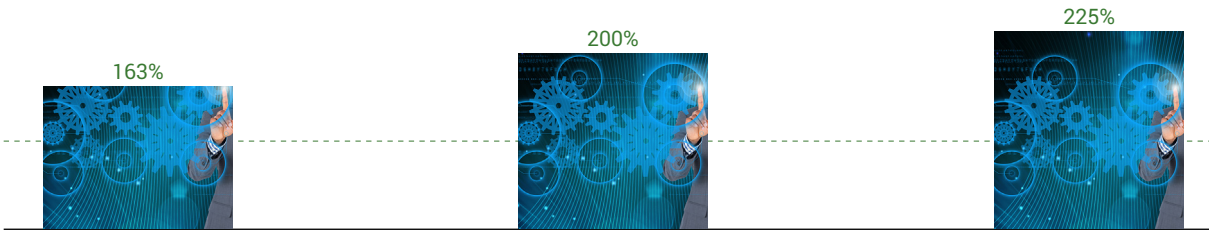
QN (ii): Number of business alliances, principles, practices, standards or frameworks established or adopted with UNEP support to enhance environmental sustainability.

QN (iii): Number of consumer information tools and measures, educational approaches and advocacy and awareness-raising events and products that inform decision-making, choices and changes in behaviour towards enhanced environmental sustainability, developed with UNEP support.

***QN:** Quantitative Indicator

Digital transformations subprogramme

100% attained **60 to <100%** partially attained **below 60%** not attained



QN (i)
Target: 8
13

QN (ii)
Target: 7
14

QN (iii)
Target: 8
18

QN (i): Number of digital platforms deployed as a result of UNEP support for automatically monitoring global progress against climate, nature and chemicals and pollution targets to support transparency, predictive analytics and risk identification.

QN (ii): Number of business alliances, partnerships and networks leveraging environmental data and digital transformation approaches to incentivize environmental sustainability and a circular economy within financial markets.

QN (iii): Number of digital applications and engagement platforms created with UNEP support to support electronic governance and enhance public participation in environmental monitoring, consensus-building, decision-making and digital transformation linked to climate, nature and chemicals and pollution actions, including the reduction of environmental digital technology inequalities in impact chains, consumer behaviours and policymaking.

***QN:** Quantitative Indicator

Annex 2: Executive Direction and Management, Policymaking Organs and Programme Management and Support

Outcome	Indicators	Unit of measure	December 2021 Baseline	Progress as of December 2024 (Result Statement)[2]	Progress expected by December 2025
Executive Direction and Management					
Outcome 1: UNEP achieves coherent delivery and integrated implementation of environmental policies and priorities within the United Nations system through UN reform.	i) Uptake of environmental policy issues or approaches by UN entities emerging from UNEP policy advice and/or support	Percentage of United Nations country teams developing United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that include environmental goals	30%	During 2024, UNEP supported 3 United Nations country teams in developing United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that include environmental goals, and data on progress will be provided at the end of 2025 in accordance with the results framework of the PoW.[3]	60%
	ii) Number of regional issue-based coalitions that focus on environment-related themes or incorporate environmental perspectives into their work through the use of UNEP tools and support	Number of relevant regional issue-based coalitions	5	During 2024, UNEP supported an additional regional issue-based coalition to incorporate environmental perspectives into their work. Data on progress will be provided at the end of 2025 in accordance with the results framework of the PoW.[4]	14 (Baseline +9)
	iii) Percentage of Governments in each region that rate UNEP support to countries as coherent and good quality	Percentage of Governments in each region that rate UNEP support to countries as coherent and of good quality	72%	No result[5]	100%

2 The Programme of Work 2024–2025 has no December 2024 targets for indicators on Executive Direction and Management, Policymaking Organs and Programme Management and Support.
3 UNCT Bahrain, UNCT Colombia and UNCT Sierra Leone.
4 The Issue-based Coalition on Raising Ambitions on Climate Action (co-chaired by UNEP).
5 Out of 193 Member States, only eight (four per cent) responded to the survey. This does not constitute a representative sample size and has thus been excluded from the overall calculations for the report.

Outcome	Indicators	Unit of measure	December 2021 Baseline	Progress as of December 2024 (Result Statement)[2]	Progress expected by December 2025
Outcome 2: UNEP has promoted cooperation and coherence in the UN System in mainstreaming and delivering on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda through the United Nations Environment Management Group.	i) Number of impact-oriented inter-agency partnerships or joint initiatives addressing integrated approaches related to climate change, nature and pollution, as a result of UNEP support	Official policy documents, strategies, initiatives and plans of UN entities and international organizations or policy documents, strategies, initiatives and plans emerging from intergovernmental forums at the global level	36	By the end of 2025, UNEP promoted cooperation and coherence in the UN system through impact oriented inter-agency partnerships/ joint initiatives that addressed integrated approaches to climate change, nature and pollution[6]	92 (Baseline +56)
	ii) Number of entities reporting on mainstreaming and implementing the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, including under the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment	Entities reporting on mainstreaming and implementing the environmental dimensions of the 2030 agenda	0	No result[7]	25 (Baseline + 25)
Outcome 3: UNEP has strengthened its transparency and accountability as a results-based organization and improved the sustainability of its operations.	i) Implementation of audit and investigation recommendations	Percentage of audit and investigation recommendations acted upon	94%	By the end of 2024, 79% of OIOS[8] audit and 52% of BOA[9] recommendations have been closed as implemented.	94%

6 (a) UN System-wide (EMG) contribution to support and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Action and (b) EMG Nexus Dialogue Series on Repurposing Harmful Subsidies.
7 During the reporting period, no results were recorded.
8 Out of 14 OIOS audits, 11 (79 per cent) were closed as implemented.
9 Out of 52 BOA audit recommendations, 25 (48 per cent) were closed as implemented and two (four per cent) were closed as having been overtaken by events. Recommendations overtaken by events refer to those overtaken by other audit events or where the risk is mitigated by other actions and changed procedures or tools.

Outcome	Indicators	Unit of measure	December 2021 Baseline	Progress as of December 2024 (Result Statement)[2]	Progress expected by December 2025
	ii) Evaluations providing a rating of "satisfactory" or higher for project performance	Number of quarterly business reviews implemented by the UNEP senior management team[10]	39%	53% of projects[11] evaluated in 2024 attained an overall performance of 'satisfactory" or better.	55%
	iii) Implementation of accepted evaluation recommendations within the time frame defined in the implementation plan	Percentage of accepted evaluation recommendations closed as compliant within the time frame defined in the evaluation recommendation implementation plan	86%	By the of end 2024, 86% of accepted evaluation recommendations were closed as compliant within the time frame defined in the evaluation recommendation implementation plan.[12]	90%
	iv) Reduction in annual greenhouse gas emissions from UNEP operations and travel by staff	Percentage reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per annum	2019 Total emissions (1,485 tCO_2eq)	By the end of 2024, UNEP had attained a 15% reduction in GHG emissions (relative to the established 2019 baseline) in its operations and travel by staff.	5.4%
Outcome 4: UNEP has implemented the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.	i) UNEP performance in terms of meeting or exceeding the UN-SWAP 2.0 indicators	Percentage of UN-SWAP 2.0 indicators met or exceeded	82%	By the end of 2024, UNEP had met or exceeded 94% of UN-SWAP 2.0 indicator targets.	88%

10 The correct unit of measure and what is being reported on here is the percentage of projects evaluated during the reporting period that attained an overall performance rating of "satisfactory" or better.
11 During the reporting period, the Evaluation Office completed 19 project evaluations of which 10 provided a rating or "satisfactory" or higher.
12 Out of 96 closed recommendations, 78 (81 per cent) were closed as compliant, five (five per cent) were closed as no further action was required, nine (nine per cent) closed as partially compliant and four were closed as not compliant. The evaluation office considers that management has fully met their compliance requirements for the first two categories (i.e 81 per cent plus five per cent = 86 per cent).

Outcome	Indicators	Unit of measure	December 2021 Baseline	Progress as of December 2024 (Result Statement)[2]	Progress expected by December 2025
	ii) UNEP performance in terms of meeting or exceeding the average UN-SWAP performance for the United Nations Secretariat and the overall UN System	Number of operative paragraphs implemented by the Secretariat and Member States[13]	UN Sec. 66% and overall UN system 63%	By the end of 2024, UNEP had met or exceeded 94% of UN-SWAP performance indicators which is better than the performance of the UN Secretariat (74%) and the overall UN system (73%). *	UNEP % is greater than UN Sec % UN System %
	iii) Degree of implementation of Environment Assembly resolution 4/17 on promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance	Number of UNEP projects assessed for gender equality impact	70	During 2024, 72 projects were assessed for gender equality impact, bringing the total for number of assessed projects to 250.	230 (Baseline + 160)
Policymaking Organs					
Outcome 1: The Environment Assembly attracts significant interest from key decision-makers and stakeholders.	i) Prominence of media reach (online, print and broadcast) and social media coverage on environmental issues during and following Environment Assembly sessions	Number of media mentions	10,000 (baseline from pre-2022 UNEA)	10,566 media mentions of environmental issues were recorded during UNEA 6 in February and March 2024.	12,000
	ii) Sustained engagement of Member States and United Nations representatives, in particular from the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, in the Environment Assembly	Number of representatives from Member States, UN entities and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements attending the relevant Environment Assembly session	1,038 (baseline from pre-2022 UNEA)	2,982 representatives from Member States, UN entities and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements attended UNEA 6 in February and March 2024.	3,000

13 This unit of measure is UNEP's performance in meeting or exceeding UN-SWAP 2.0 performance indicators relative to both the UN Secretariat and the overall UN System.

Outcome	Indicators	Unit of measure	December 2021 Baseline	Progress as of December 2024 (Result Statement)[2]	Progress expected by December 2025
	iii) Enhanced engagement of major group and stakeholder representatives in the Environment Assembly	Number of representatives from civil society participating in the Environment Assembly	667 (baseline from pre-2022 UNEA)	1,032 representatives from civil society participated in UNEA 6 in February and March 2024.	850
Outcome 2: The Environment Assembly sets the global environmental policy agenda for the upcoming years.	i) Percentage of surveyed UNEP partners in Governments and in the UN system that rate the Environment Assembly as useful in providing policy guidance on important global environmental issues	Percentage of positive responses in the Environment Assembly survey	94% (baseline from pre-2022 UNEA)	78% of UNEP partners in Governments and in the UN system (surveyed in March 2024) rated the Environment Assembly as useful in providing policy guidance on important global environmental issues.	94%
Programme Management and Support					
Outcome 1: UNEP makes management decisions based on risk information.	i) Extent of adoption and implementation of the UNEP risk-management framework	Number of UNEP organizational units that have implemented the framework	1	In 2024, 1 UNEP organizational unit had developed and implemented the UNEP risk-management framework.[14]	14 (Baseline +13)
	ii) Extent to which an established risk- management framework is used as a basis for management decisions in UNEP operations	Number of UNEP areas of operation covered[15]	9	By the end of 2024, management decisions on two[16] areas of operation had been informed by the risk- management framework.	17 (Baseline +8)
Outcome 2: Policies and standards are in place for oversight and management.	i) UNEP programme implementation is governed by up-to-date UNEP-specific norms, guidelines and standard operating procedures	Number of specific norms, guidelines and standard operating procedures developed	0	In 2024, ten guidelines and standard operating procedures were developed.[17]	10 (Baseline +10)

14 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariat.
15 Indicator measures the number of UNEP areas of operation in which management decisions have been informed by the risk-management framework.
16 As per the UNEP Enterprise Risk Management Guidelines which map the UN Secretariat risk universe (see Appendix 2), the seven major risk areas comprise 24 sub risks. Using the sub-risk categorizations made it possible to cover two UNEP areas of operation by the end of 2024: Principal organs, partners (1.2), fraud and corruption—central services (7.4).
17 Norms, guidelines, standards issued in 2024: Implementation of online Travel Portal and travel class restrictions; Procedures related to non-compliance of 21-day TRIP submission (Traveller and TSA); Partnership Policy 2024; Environmental Sustainability Policy 2024; standard operating procedure (SOP) for Deploying the Emergency Environmental Response Fund; SOP on map approval in all publication media; SOP on recruitment process—regular and temporary P5 and above positions; SOP on recruitment process—regular and temporary P4 and below positions; SOP on the review of UNEP-administered Multilateral Environmental Agreement Secretariat budget proposals; SOP on the preparation, clearance and approval of administration-related aspects of UNEP reports for submission to the governing and related bodies of the Global UNEP-administered Multilateral Environmental Agreement.

Outcome	Indicators	Unit of measure	December 2021 Baseline	Progress as of December 2024 (Result Statement)[2]	Progress expected by December 2025
	ii) Integration of environmental and social safeguards into project implementation	Percentage of relevant projects that demonstrate the integration of environmental and social safeguards[18]	61%	By the end of 2024, 89.58% of relevant projects demonstrated the integration of environmental and social safeguards.	90%
	iii) Integration of gender considerations into project implementation	Percentage of projects that demonstrate the integration of gender based on the gender-marker coding system	95%	By the end of 2024, 91% of UNEP's projects demonstrated the integration of gender based on the gender-marker coding system.	95%

18 UNEP projects that work to integrate environmental and safeguard standards are moderate-risk projects that pose potential significant environmental and social risks on one or more of the eight UNEP safeguard standards. Given this level of risk, it is imperative to develop a tailored management plan to effectively address or mitigate the associated intervention risks. Examples of relevant management plans include the: Gender Action Plan; Stakeholder Engagement Plan; Environmental and Social Management Framework/Plan; Climate and Risk Vulnerability Assessment; Indigenous Peoples Plan; Cultural Heritage Management Plan; and Biodiversity Action Plan, etc.

Annex 3: United Nations Environment Assembly outcomes

Resolutions and decisions: First–Sixth Sessions of the UN Environment Assembly

Sixth Session of the UN Environment Assembly		
No.	**Symbol**	**Title**
Ministerial Declaration		
1	UNEP/EA.6/HLS.1	Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session: Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
Resolutions		
2	UNEP/EA.6/Res.1	Circularity of a resilient, low-carbon sugar cane agro-industry
3	UNEP/EA.6/Res.2	Amendments to the Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured GEF
4	UNEP/EA.6/Res.3	Enhancing the role and viability of regional forums of environment ministers and UNEP regional offices in achieving multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental challenges
5	UNEP/EA.6/Res.4	Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments
6	UNEP/EA.6/Res.5	Environmental aspects of minerals and metals
7	UNEP/EA.6/Res.6	Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the UNEA, UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements
8	UNEP/EA.6/Res.7	Combating sand and dust storms
9	UNEP/EA.6/Res.8	Promoting sustainable lifestyles
10	UNEP/EA.6/Res.9	Sound management of chemicals and waste
11	UNEP/EA.6/RES.10	Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally
12	UNEP/EA.6/Res.11	Highly hazardous pesticides
13	UNEP/EA.6/Res.12	Environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict
14	UNEP/EA.6/Res.13	Effective and inclusive solutions for strengthening water policies to achieve sustainable development in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution
15	UNEP/EA.6/Res.14	Strengthening international efforts to combat desertification and land degradation, restore degraded land, promote land conservation and sustainable land management, contribute to land degradation neutrality and enhance drought resilience
16	UNEP/EA.6/Res.15	Strengthening ocean efforts to tackle climate change, marine biodiversity loss and pollution
Decisions		
17	UNEA Decision 6/1	Adoption of the agenda
18	UNEA Decision 6/2	Organization of work
19	UNEA Decision 6/3	Accreditation of intergovernmental organizations to UNEA
20	UNEA Decision 6/4	Credentials of representatives
21	UNEA Decision 6/5	Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
22	UNEA Decision 6/6	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
23	UNEA Decision 6/7	Provisional agenda, dates and venue of the seventh session of UNEA
24	UNEA Decision 6/8	Election of the Bureau of the seventh session of UNEA

Fifth Session II of the UN Environment Assembly		
No.	**Symbol**	**Title**
Political Declaration		
1	UNEP/EA.SS.1/4	Political declaration of the special session of UNEA to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme
Ministerial Declaration		
2	UNEP/EA.5/HLS.1	Ministerial declaration of the of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session: strengthening actions for nature to achieve the SDGs
Resolutions		
3	UNEP/EA.5/Res.1	Animal welfare environment and sustainable development nexus
4	UNEP/EA.5/Res.2	Sustainable Nitrogen Management
5	UNEP/EA.5/Res.3	Future of Global Environment Outlook
6	UNEP/EA.5/Res.4	Sustainable Lake Management
7	UNEP/EA.5/Res.5	Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development
8	UNEP/EA.5/Res.6	Biodiversity and Health
9	UNEP/EA.5/Res.7	Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste
10	UNEP/EA.5/Res.8	Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution
11	UNEP/EA.5/Res.9	Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure
12	UNEP/EA.5/RES.10	Environmental dimension of a sustainable, resilient and inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery
13	UNEP/EA.5/Res.11	Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to sustainable consumption and production
14	UNEP/EA.5/Res.12	Environmental aspects of mineral and metal management
15	UNEP/EA.5/Res.13	Due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with paragraph 3 of article 101 of the of the United Nations Charter
16	UNEP/EA.5/Res.14	End plastic pollution: towards an international legally-binding instrument

Fifth Session I of the UN Environment Assembly		
No.	**Symbol**	**Title**
Decisions		
1	Decision 5/1	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
2	Decision 5/2	Medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023
3	Decision 5/3	Adjournment and resumption of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
4	Decision 5/4	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

Fourth Session of the UN Environment Assembly		
No.	**Symbol**	**Title**
Ministerial declaration		
1	UNEP/EA.4/HLS 1	Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fourth session
Resolutions		
2	UNEP/EA.4/RES.1	Innovative Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Consumption and Production
3	UNEP/EA.4/RES.2	Promoting sustainable practices and innovative solutions for curbing food loss and waste
4	UNEP/EA.4/RES.3	Sustainable Mobility
5	UNEP/EA.4/RES.4	Addressing environmental challenges through sustainable business practices
6	UNEP/EA.4/RES.5	Sustainable Infrastructure
7	UNEP/EA.4/RES.6	Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics
8	UNEP/EA.4/RES.7	Environmentally Sound Management of Waste
9	UNEP/EA.4/RES.8	Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste
10	UNEP/EA.4/RES.9	Addressing Single-use Plastic Products Pollution
11	UNEP/EA.4/RES.10	Innovation on biodiversity and land degradation
12	UNEP/EA.4/RES.11	Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
13	UNEP/EA.4/RES.12	Sustainable Management for global health of mangroves
14	UNEP/EA.4/RES.13	Sustainable coral reefs management
15	UNEP/EA.4/RES.14	Sustainable Nitrogen Management
16	UNEP/EA.4/RES.15	Innovations in sustainable rangelands and pastoralism
17	UNEP/EA.4/RES.16	Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands
18	UNEP/EA.4/RES.17	Promote gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance
19	UNEP/EA.4/RES.18	Poverty Environment Nexus
20	UNEP/EA.4/RES.19	Mineral resource governance
21	UNEP/EA.4/RES.20	Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V): Delivering for People and the Planet
22	UNEP/EA.4/RES.21	Implementation Plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”
23	UNEP/EA.4/RES.22	Implementation and follow up of UNEA Resolutions
24	UNEP/EA.4/RES.23	Keeping the World Environment under Review: Enhancing UNEP’s Science Policy Interface and Endorsement of the Global Environment Outlook
Decisions		
25	Decision 4/1	Proposed programme of work and budget for 2020–2021
26	Decision 4/2	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
27	Decision 4/3	Management of Trust Funds and Earmarked Contributions

Third Session of the UN Environment Assembly		
No.	**Symbol**	**Title**
Ministerial Declaration		
1	UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1	Ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session: Towards a pollution-free planet
Resolutions		
2	UNEP/EA.3/Res.1	Pollution mitigation and control in areas affected by armed conflict or terrorism
3	UNEP/EA.3/Res.2	Pollution Mitigation by Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Key Sectors
4	UNEP/EA.3/Res.3	Contributions of the United Nations Environment Assembly to the high-level political forum on sustainable development
5	UNEP/EA.3/Res.4	Environment and Health
6	UNEP/EA.3/Res.5	Investing in innovative environmental solutions for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs
7	UNEP/EA.3/Res.6	Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development
8	UNEP/EA.3/Res.7	Marine litter and microplastics
9	UNEP/EA.3/Res.8	Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally
10	UNEP/EA.3/Res.9	Eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries
11	UNEP/EA.3/Res.10	Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems
12	UNEP/EA.3/Res.11	Implementation of paragraph 88 (a)–(h) of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled The future we want
Decisions		
13	3/1	Extension of the delivery date for the sixth Global Environment Outlook report
14	3/2	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
15	3/3	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions

Second Session of the UN Environment Assembly		
No.	**Symbol**	**Title**
Resolutions		
1	UNEP/EA.2/Res.1	Amendments to the rules of procedure
2	UNEP/EA.2/Res.2	Role and functions of the regional forums of ministers of environment and environment authorities
3	UNEP/EA.2/Res.3	Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training
4	UNEP/EA.2/Res.4	Role, functions and modalities for UNEP implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the SDGs
5	UNEP/EA.2/Res.5	Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
6	UNEP/EA.2/Res.6	Supporting the Paris Agreement
7	UNEP/EA.2/Res.7	Sound management of chemicals and waste
8	UNEP/EA.2/Res.8	Sustainable consumption and production
9	UNEP/EA.2/Res.9	Prevention, reduction and reuse of food waste
10	UNEP/EA.2/Res.10	Oceans and seas
11	UNEP/EA.2/Res.11	Marine plastic litter and micro-plastics
12	UNEP/EA.2/Res.12	Sustainable coral reef management
13	UNEP/EA.2/Res.13	Sustainable management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication
14	UNEP/EA.2/Res.14	Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products

15	UNEP/EA.2/Res.15	Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict
16	UNEP/EA.2/Res.16	Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being
17	UNEP/EA.2/Res.17	Enhancing the work of UN Environment Programme in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity- related conventions
18	UNEP/EA.2/Res.18	Relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat
19	UNEP/EA.2/Res.19	Midterm review of the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environment Law (Montevideo Programme IV)
20	UNEP/EA.2/Res.20	Proposed medium-term strategy for 2018–2021 and programme of work and budget for 2018–2019
21	UNEP/EA.2/Res.21	Sand and dust storms
22	UNEP/EA.2/Res.22	Review of the cycle of sessions of United Nations Environment Assembly of UN Environment Programme
23	UNEP/EA.2/Res.23	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
24	UNEP/EA.2/Res.24	Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands
25	UNEP/EA.2/Res.25	Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

First Session of the UN Environment Assembly

No.	Symbol	Title
Resolutions		
1	1/1	Ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
2	1/2	Amendments to the rules of procedure
3	1/3	Illegal trade in wildlife
4	1/4	Science-policy interface
5	1/5	Chemicals and waste
6	1/6	Marine plastic debris and microplastics
7	1/7	Strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality
8	1/8	Ecosystem-based adaptation
9	1/9	Global Environment Monitoring System/Water Programme
10	1/10	Different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
11	1/11	Coordination across the UN system in the field of the environment, including the Environment Management Group
12	1/12	Relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements
13	1/13	Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
14	1/14	Revised programme of work and budget for 2014–2015
15	1/15	Proposed programme of work and budget for 2016 –2017
16	1/16	Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions
17	1/17	Amendments to Instrument for Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility
Decisions		
18	1/1	Implementation of paragraph 88 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
19	1/2	Provisional agenda, date and venue of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

End Notes

1 Department of Nature and Forests Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Albania; Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Qualité de vie, Algeria, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Algeria; Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Andorra; Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment, Angola; Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Antigua and Barbuda; Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Argentina; Ministry of Environment, Armenia; Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia; Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Austria; Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan; Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh; Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy, Barbados; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Belarus; Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium; Ministry of Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Belize. Ministère du Cadre de Vie et des Transports, Benin; Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Bhutan; Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Bolivia; Vicepresidencia del Estado, Bolivia; Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Botswana. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil. Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam; Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria; Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement, Burkina Faso; Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement, Burundi. Ministério da Agricultura e Ambiente, Cabo Verde; Ministry of Environment, Cambodia; Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Cameroon; Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada; Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Central African Republic; Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Pêche et du Developpement Durable, Chad; Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Chile; Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Chile; Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the People's Republic of China. Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Colombia; Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche, de l'Environnement, du Tourisme et de l'Artisanat, Comoros; Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et du Bassin du Congo, Congo; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Cook Islands; National Environment Service, Cook Islands; Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía, Costa Rica; Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto, Costa Rica; Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Côte d'Ivoire; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Green Transition, Croatia; Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Cuba; Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus; Ministry of the Environment, Czechia; National Coordinating Committee for Environment, Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Ministry of Environment, Denmark; Ministère de l'Environnement et du Developpement Durable, Djibouti. Ministry of Blue and Green Economy, Agriculture and National Food Security, Dominica; Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Dominican Republic. Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, Ecuador; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Humain Mobility, Ecuador; Ministry of Environment, Egypt; Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, El Salvador; Ministerio de Bosques y Medio Ambiente, Equatorial Guinea; Ministry of Land, Water and Environment, Eritrea; Ministry of Climate, Estonia; Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Eswatini; Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, Ethiopia; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Fiji; Ministry of the Environment, Finland; Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères, France; Ministère de l'Environnement, du Climat et du Conflit Homme-Faune, Gabon; Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, Gambia; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia; Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany; Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana; Ministry of Environment and Energy, Greece; Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy, Grenada; Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas, Guatemala; Office guinéen des parcs nationaux et réserves de faune, Guinea; Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Guinea-Bissau; Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana; Ministère de l'Environnement, Haiti; Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente, Honduras; Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary; Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Iceland; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India; Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iraq; Ministry of Health and Environment, Iraq; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland; Israel Nature and Parks Authority, Israel; Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel; Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Sea Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, Italy; Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, Jamaica; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan; Ministry of Environment, Jordan; Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan; Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Kenya; Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development, Kiribati; Environment Public Authority, Kuwait; Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision, Kyrgyzstan; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao People's Democratic Republic; Ministry of Smart Administration and Regional Development, Latvia; Ministry of Environment, Lebanon; Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment, Lesotho; Environmental Protection Agency, Liberia; Ministry of Environment, Libya; Office of Environment, Liechtenstein; Ministry of Environment, Lithuania; Ministère de l'Environnement, du Climat et de la Biodiversité, Luxembourg; Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, Luxembourg; Direction Générale des Forêts Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Madagascar; Environmental Affairs Department, Malawi; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, Malaysia; Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives; Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Assainissement et du Développement Durable, Mali; Environment and Resources Authority, Malta; Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Regeneration of the Grand Harbo, Malta; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Marshall Islands; Office of the President, Marshall Islands; RMI Environmental Protection Authority, Marshall Islands; Ministère de l'Environnement, Mauritania; National Parks and Conservation Service Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Mauritius; Secretaría de Media Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Mexico; Department of Resources and Development, Micronesia (Federated States of); Département des Relations Extérieures et de la Coopération, Monaco; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Mongolia; Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Development, Montenegro; Ministère de la Transition Energétique et du Développement Durable, Morocco; National Directorate of Environment Ministry of Land and Environment, Mozambique; Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Namibia; Department of Environmental Management and Agriculture, Nauru; Ministry of Forests and Environment, Nepal; Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Netherlands (Kingdom of the); Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand; Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales, Nicaragua; Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable, Niger; Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria; Department of Environment Ministry of Natural Resources, Niue; Office for External Affairs Premier's Department, Niue; Department for Sustainability and Transition Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway; Environment Authority, Oman; Biodiversity Directorate Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment, Palau; Ministerio de Ambiente, Panama; Conservation and Environment Protection Authority, Papua New Guinea; Dirección General del Protección y Conservación de la Biodiversidad Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, Paraguay;

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Peru; Ministerio del Ambiente, Peru; Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines; Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippines; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Qatar; Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea; Ministry of Environment, Republic of Moldova; Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Romania; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Russian Federation; Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Rwanda; Department of Environment Ministry of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, Saint Kitts and Nevis; Department of of Sustainable Development Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, Saint Lucia; Sustainable Development Unit Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa; San Marino Naturalistic Center, San Marino; Ministry of Environment, Sao Tome and Principe; Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia; Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Transition Ecologique, Senegal; Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia; Biodiversity Conservation and Management Division Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, Seychelles; Environmental Protection Agency, Sierra Leone; National Parks Board, Singapore; Ministry of Environment, Slovakia; Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia; Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands; Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Somalia; Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa; Ministry of Environment and Forestry, South Sudan; Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico, Spain; Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka; Environment Quality Authority (EQA), State of Palestine; Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources, Sudan; Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment, Suriname; Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Sweden; Federal Office for the Envrionment, Switzerland; Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Syrian Arab Republic; Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Tajikistan; Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Thailand; National Directorate for International Environmental Affairs Secretariat of State for Environment, Timor-Leste; Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources forestières, Togo; Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, Tonga; Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad and Tobago; Direction Générale de l'Environnement et de la Qualité de la Vie Ministère de l'Environnement, Tunisia; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Turkiye; Ministry of Environment Protection, Turkmenistan; Ministry of Home Affairs, Climate Change and Environment, Tuvalu; National Environment Management Authority, Uganda; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ukraine; Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates; Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom; Division of Environment Vice President's Office, United Republic of Tanzania; Environment Division Vice President's Office, United Republic of Tanzania; Ministerio de Ambiente, Uruguay; Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Uruguay; Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, Uzbekistan; Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation Ministry of Climate Change, Adaptation, Meteorology, Geo-Hazards, Environment and Energy and NDMO, Vanuatu; Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); Vietnam Environment Administration Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Viet Nam; Environmental Protection Agency, Yemen; Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Zambia; Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, Zimbabwe.

2 Argentina, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto; Australia, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; Burundi, Ministry of Environment; Brazil, Brazil - Federal Government of Brazil; Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada; China, Ministry of Ecology and Environment; Chile, Environment Ministry, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Property, Ministry of Housing and Urbanization, State Under-Secretariat, Port Works Department, General Waters Department, Ministry of Public Works; Democratic Republic of Congo, Ministry of Environment; France, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères.

Ghana, University of Ghana (Ministry of Education), Veterinary Services Directorate National Disaster Management Organization, Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission, Public Health Directorate of Ghana Health Service; Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection; India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indian Council for Agriculture Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India; Indonesia, Riau Province Government, Jambi Province Government, West Sumatra Province Government; Italy, Directorate General for Natural Heritage and Sea Ministry of Environment and Energy Security; Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Lao PDR, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Mexico, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretaría de Media Ambiente y Recursos Naturales; Mongolia, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry; Pakistan, Ministry of Environment; Republic of Congo, Ministry of Environment; Republic of Korea, Ministry of Environment; Russian Federation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture; South Africa, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment; Türkiye, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Uganda, Uganda National Council for Science and Technology, National Environment Management Authority, National Forestry Resources Research Institute, National Chemotherapeutic Research Institute, Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Forestry Authority, Makerere University; United Kingdom, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs; United States, State Department.

3 Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia (Republic of the), Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, North Macedonia, Palau, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tonga, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

4 Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Cambodia, Comoros, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Niue, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5 African farmers transforming food systems: Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda; Regreening Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Somalia.

6 Acción Andina: Saving a global water and climate hotspot, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru.

7 Restoring Mediterranean Forests: Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia; Türkiye.

8 Mangrove regeneration in Sri Lanka; Living Indus. Pakistan; Terai Arc Landscape and Nepal.

9 Global Chemicals Outlook II, UNEP, 2019.

10 Bihar, Mangalore, Munger and Patna.

11 Nigeria, Malaysia, Argentina, Indonesia, Mauritius, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

12 Liberia, Maldives and Mozambique.

13 Belarus.

14 Cameroon, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Suriname and Tuvalu.

15 Djibouti and Fiji.

16 Gambia, Micronesia, the State of Palestine and Vanuatu.

17 Argentina, Malaysia and Nigeria.

18 Lesotho, Indian cities such as Bihar, Mangalore, Munger and Patna.

19 Guinea.

20 Sustainable nitrogen management in Sri Lanka and Trinida and Tobago; and National Action Plans for AMR in Guatemala, India, Kenya Niger and Nigeria.

21 Colombia, Iraq, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, the Caribbean, Southeast Europe.

22 In Islah, Thi-Qar Governorate. The pilot project, in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, is expected to benefit 30,000 people.

23 Africa's Clean Air Programme, Greater Accra regional air quality management plan, pollutant mitigation roadmaps in Costa Rica, Panama and Pakistan, and fuel quality monitoring and vehicle emission standards in Cambodia.

24 Trinidad and Tobago and Sri Lanka.

25 Philippines, Mongolia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Indonesia and Peru.

26 Net-Zero Banking Alliance 2024 Progress Report – United Nations Environment – Finance Initiative.

UN environment programme

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