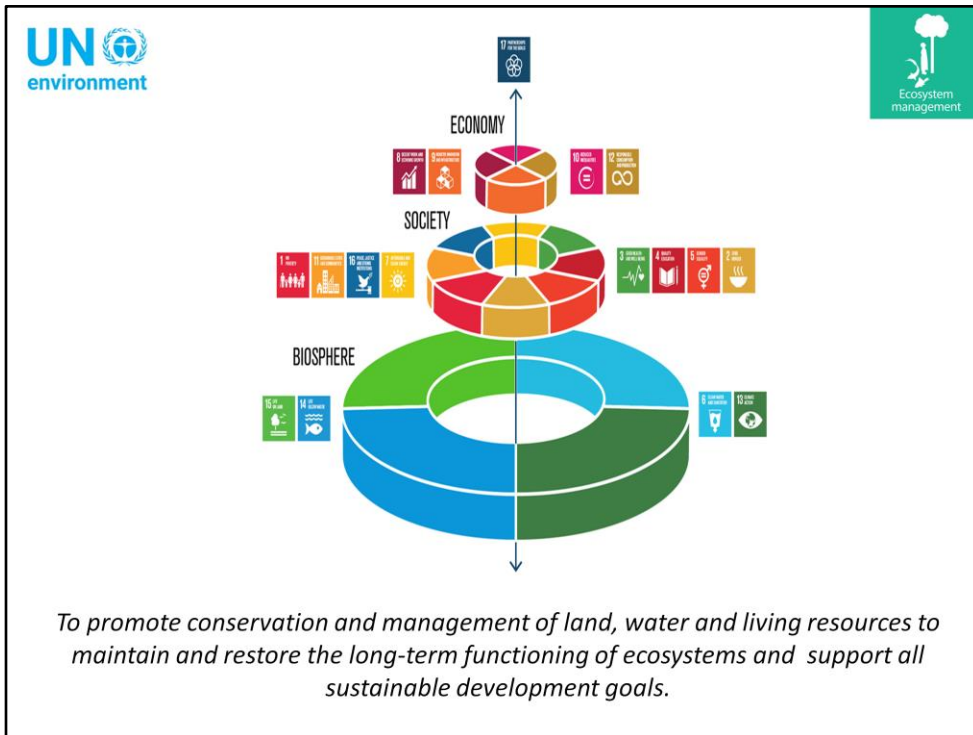




- The Ecosystem Management Programme is one of the 7 UN Environment programmes. The presentation will take you from the big picture to details
- The programme support governments, private sector and civil society to manage ecosystems for delivery on multiple objectives.



- The 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals are underpinned by a healthy and productive environment.
- While SDGs 6, 13, 14, and 15 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets are at the heart of our work, our focus is to foster ecosystem management which deliver on all Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty reduction, food/water and energy security, employment and gender equality.
- Progress measured by 2030 Sustainable Development Goals impact level indicators.
- Mid-Term Strategy 2018-2021 designed specifically to align with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

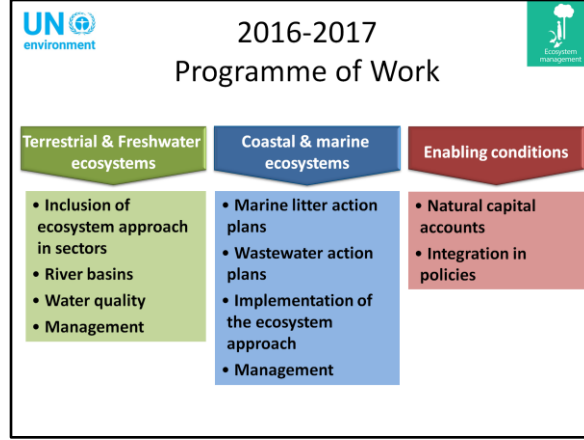


1. Have you ever taken part in a tug of war? And you may recall that the harder the others pull the harder you pull, right? Same applies to ecosystems and the efforts to deliver on sectoral goals.
 1. Sectoral approaches tend to be a race to the bottom and this pulling is increasing, such that by 2030, the world is projected to need 50% more food, 40% more energy, 40% more water, and 40% more timber and fibre and sand — putting intense pressure on our already stressed ecosystems.
 2. Already today, 795 million people suffer from hunger and 1.2 billion live in water stressed areas.

2. UN Environments support to countries can be placed within this tug of war picture and our input and deliverables help these stakeholders to engage in integrated ecosystem management by:
 1. Strengthening and building the resilience of ecosystems (protected areas, restoration, connectivity, biodiversity indicators and strategies (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategy Action Programmes).
 2. Improving our understanding of our dependence on ecosystems by making the invisible visible through the economics of ecosystems and accounting of ecosystem services.
 3. Institution building and cross-sectoral dialogue for integrated ecosystem management (e.g. Regional Seas and Basin organizations). Tools: e.g. spatial planning, scenarios and performance monitoring systems
 4. Review of public sector finance to reduce the negative impacts of their financial decisions and to increase the positive one. E.g. Public Environmental Expenditure

Review and Budget Environmental Impact Assessments

5. Review of private sector finance to reduce the negative impacts of their financial decisions and to increase the positive ones. Focus on risk management and business opportunities.
6. Education of future professionals in sectors that depend and impact on ecosystems e.g. through changing sectoral curricula and training programmes.



We have 3 Expected Accomplishments and 11 indicators. Focus on terrestrial and fresh water ecosystems, coastal and marine ecosystems and the enabling conditions to manage ecosystems through an ecosystem approach.

The indicators measure the following:

Expected Accomplishment A:

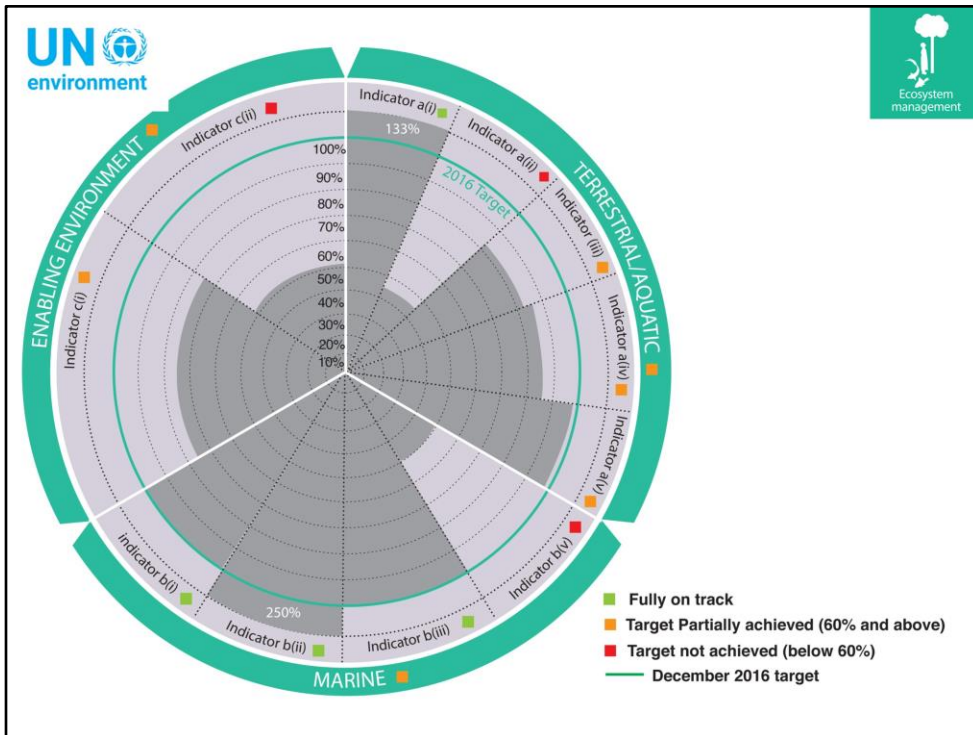
- (i) Integration of the ecosystem approach in sector-based ecosystem management
- (ii) Usage of the ecosystem approach in river basins
- (iii) Improvement of water quality frameworks
- (iv) Area managed using an ecosystem approach

Expected Accomplishment B:

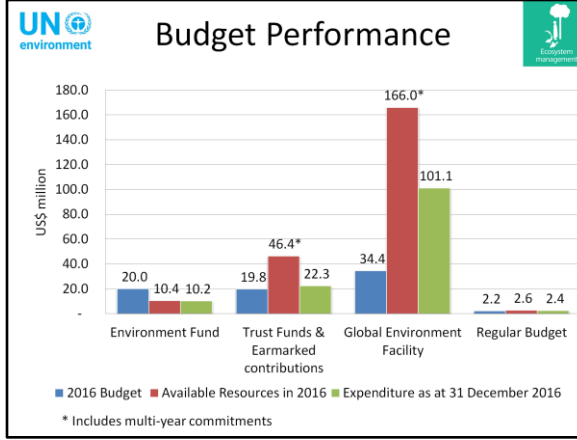
- (i) Action plans to reduce marine litter
- (ii) Action plans to reduce wastewater
- (iii) Implementation of the ecosystem approach by Regional Seas or their parties
- (iv) Area managed using an ecosystem approach

Expected Accomplishment C:

- (i) Establishment of natural capital accounts
- (ii) Two or more policy frameworks which integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services



Overview of the progress across the 3 expected accomplishments and all 11 indicators. The progress against each indicator will be presented in connection to the expected accomplishments.



Overview of available resources:

- We have been able to raise funds to the level of the target budget but most of resources are ear-marked and thus, in terms of the delivery of our Programme of Work, out of the full control of UN Environment.
- The available resources include multi-year commitments from multi-year projects.
- Global Environment Facility: carry-over of USD26.397 million unspent from 2015. Includes all Global Environment Facility resources whether the project is executed through UN Environment or by external partners. The breakdown between Implementing Agency and Executing Agency is USD 149 and 17 million
- Trust Funds & Earmarked contributions: carry-over of USD12 million unspent from 2015.
- Resources tend to become available towards the end of the year which explains the lag in expenditure.

UN environment (a) Use of the **ecosystem approach** to maintain ecosystem services and productivity of **terrestrial and aquatic systems**

- Work streams
 - Connectivity and Protected Areas
 - Species conservation
 - Integrated Land Management
 - Sectoral tools (water quality, extractives, finance, education)
- UN Environment Assembly resolutions: 2/3, 13, 14, 15,24

Expected Accomplishment (a): Work streams and projects to:

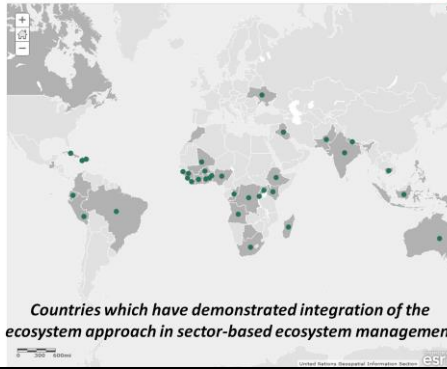
- Ensure connectivity across ecosystems especially at landscape level (E.g., UN Environment supports Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic to conserve terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity in the region)
- Establish and manage protected areas (e.g. Iraqi Marshlands, see case study)
- Strengthen species conservation, habitat management, tools and partnerships e.g. the Great Apes Survival Partnership and Electronic Permitting Information eXchange (EPIX) in support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Dugong conservation in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia and Madagascar.
- Design and negotiate landscape level visions and implementation of integrated landscape management in countries e.g. Haiti, Cuba and the Mekong region.
- Help private sector to adopt and utilize a more systematic approach to ecosystems e.g. spatial planning for extractive industries, incorporation of natural capital considerations in business operations, incorporation of ecosystem thinking in sectoral education frameworks.

The logo's show some of the partnerships that UN Environment fosters.

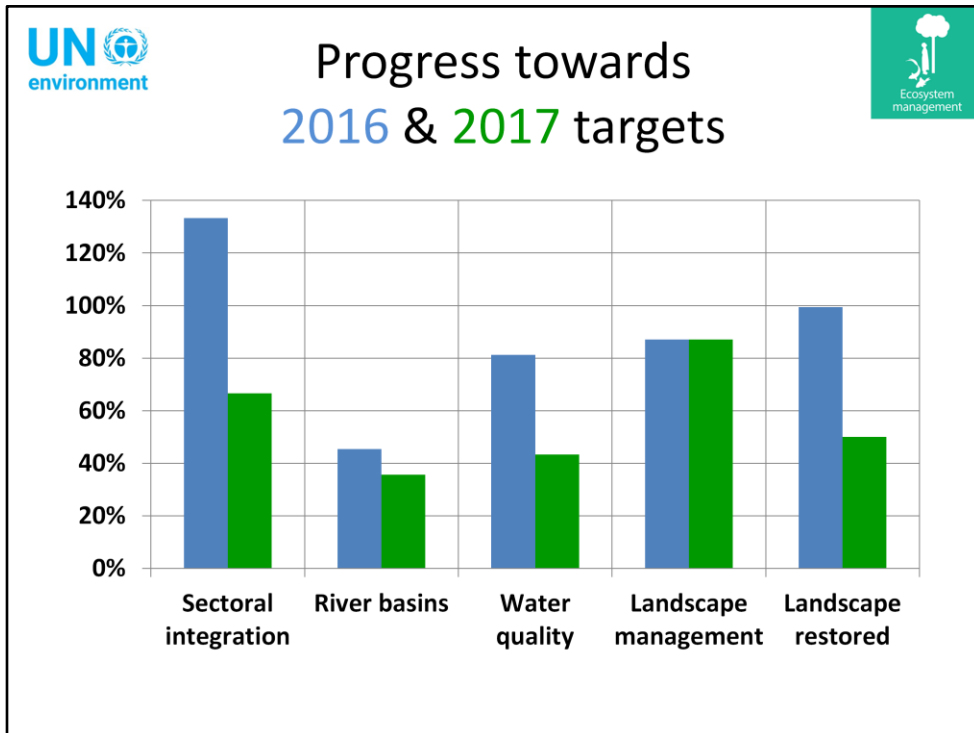
This work stream delivers on the following United Nations Environment Assembly II resolutions:

- 2/3 Investing in human capacity for sustainable development, through environmental education and training
- 2/13 Sustainable management of natural capital
- 2/14 Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products
- 2/15 Mainstreaming biodiversity
- 2/24 Combatting desertification and promoting pastoralism and rangelands

For further information on progress on United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions see separate update document.



The map shows the countries that, by end of 2016, have progressed, with support from UN Environment, to incorporate the ecosystem approach into sector-based natural resource management in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems



We have 5 indicators for Expected Accomplishment A as shown on this slide.

- Indicator EAa (i): We are on target and end of 2017 target likely to be achieved. Example on progress: Nepal has adopted a National Policy for pollinators and established several local management plans for pollinators.
- Indicator EAa (ii): Partial progress but on-going work is likely to bring us near the end of biennium target. Example of progress: A management plan has been approved for the Mixteca River Basin in Mexico.
- Indicator EAa (iii): Satisfactory progress. Water quality guidelines are not in place yet but we are on track in terms of the number of countries working on improving their water quality frameworks. Progress on guidelines delayed as these have been updated to capture the new Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets and indicators. Example of progress: 20 countries have actively participated in the development of the guidelines and Peru, the Netherlands, Senegal and Uganda have tested the new indicator on water quality under the Agenda 2030 goals.
- Indicator EAa (iv): Under this indicator we use global targets (17%) and datasets (World Database on Protected Areas) for terrestrial protected areas. The current coverage is 14.8%. Examples of progress and UN Environment contribution to the global target: inclusion of 130.000ha (Banado de Figueroa and Formosa) in Argentina's protected area network.
- Indicator EAa (v): Mid-term target of 3000 hectares achieved. Examples of progress: 2100ha restored in Ecuador and restoration plans included in agreement between Tanzania and Mozambique for the Coordinated conservation and management of Niassa-Selous.



The Marshlands of Mesopotamia (Al-Ahwar) in southern Iraq, are a rare aquatic landscape in the desert. A biodiversity hotspot for key migratory birds and once the largest wetland ecosystem in the Middle East, the Marshlands provide habitat for the Marsh Arabs and critical populations of wildlife.

Since the 1970s, the Marshlands have been damaged significantly due to upstream dam construction, drainage for agriculture, oil exploration, war, drought, desertification and climate change. By 2003, the Marshlands had been almost entirely destroyed.

The Marshlands were once home to several hundred thousand inhabitants, the Ma'dan. Today's "Marsh Arabs" live in secluded villages of reed houses. They fish, cultivate rice and raise water buffalo to support their livelihoods.

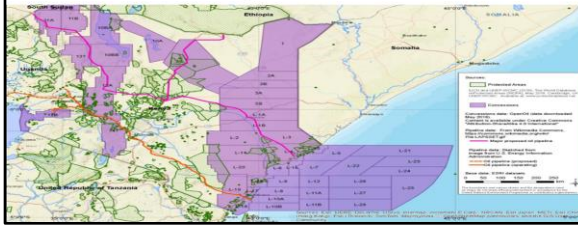
The population shrank from half a million in the 1950s to about 20,000 following the draining of the marshes in the 1980s and 1990s. But the population has rebounded since 2003, with many Marsh Arabs slowly returning to their ancestral home. See more at: <http://www.unep.org/stories/Ecosystems/Crunch-time-for-Iraqi-marshlands.asp#sthash.zKbjeYG2.dpuf>

UN Environment has provided support to Iraq on the management of the marshlands and since our collaboration started in 2004 a consolidated Cultural and Management plan for the Marshlands has been established and the marsh has been designated as a World Heritage Site. Furthermore, Marsh Arabs are returning to and there is evidence of improvements in ecosystem health and productivity. Problems still persist with increasing demand for water reducing inflow. Solutions are thus needed across the wider landscape, locally and across the region. The health and productivity of the marshlands is as much about livelihoods, food/water/energy security and cultural objectives as it is about conservation of biodiversity. A giant tug-of-war between different interest groups.

UN environment *Sectoral engagement* ecosystem management

- www.proteuspartners.org
- 11 companies
- Africa and country assessments

proteus
partners for a wiser world



The Proteus Partnership is a unique collaboration between leading extractives companies and UNEP-WCMC to provide companies with the biodiversity information needed for better informed decisions and to support the development and improvement of key global biodiversity resources. Proteus builds on the World Database on Protected Areas and other data sources and translates these into easy to use geospatially explicit tools, such as the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT).

Proteus members have used these data sets to screen site selections and project and company-level risks. Proteus has e.g., identified 50 unique member operations inside of protected areas with a further 19 within 1 km of a protected area.

An UNEP-WCMC assessment of Africa (<http://wcmc.io/AfricaOilGas>) revealed that across Africa 29% of oil and gas contract blocks overlap with protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) www.keybiodiversityareas.org/. Of particular concern are the large proportion of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites overlapping with existing contract blocks, as these areas represent the last refuge for species threatened with global extinction www.zeroextinction.org/. Future oil and gas developments may create further potential tensions with an additional 85 Key Biodiversity Areas and 266 protected areas, including a number designated under international conventions and agreements.

These tools help the extractive sector and conservation constituency to engage in a dialogue and find solutions to decrease the antagonism between these ecosystem management objectives.

Kenya and Uganda assessment can be found at <http://wcmc.io/StrengtheningGovernance>

UN environment (b) Use of the **ecosystem approach** to sustain ecosystem services from **coastal and marine systems**

- Work streams
 - Regional seas conventions & action plans
 - Pollution (marine litter, wastewater, nutrients)
 - Spatial planning
 - Coral Reefs
 - Marine Protected Areas
- UN Environment Assembly resolutions: 2/4,10,11,12





UN Environment support integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems through:

- the Regional Seas and Action plans: 13 Regionals seas established under UN Environment, with provision of secretariats for seven. Collaboration to implement Strategic Action Plans e.g., large Global Environment Facility projects for the Nairobi Convention and the Barcelona Convention. UN Environment is further facilitating collaboration between the Regional Seas and the Regional Fisheries Bodies e.g., in West Africa.
- Addressing pollution through several global programmes and partnerships e.g., Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the marine Environment from Land-based pollution and, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (<http://web.unep.org/gpa/>)
- Coral reefs: Assessment of coral reefs e.g., which reefs are vulnerable to climate change and which may provide climate refugia. Fostering of the Global Partnership on Coral Reefs and private sector engagement through the Green Fins <http://greenfins.net/en>
- Spatial Planning: Support to Abidjan Convention on collaboration with the Regional Fisheries Body and establishment of spatial plans for multi-objective management of the coastal and marine ecosystems in West-Africa.
- Establishment and management of Marine Protected Areas e.g., in Haiti.

Our marine and coastal ecosystems work covers well the full spectrum of integrated ecosystem management and the support to the stakeholders in the tug-of-war. UN Environment is planning to increase our focus on the economics of coastal and marine ecosystems.

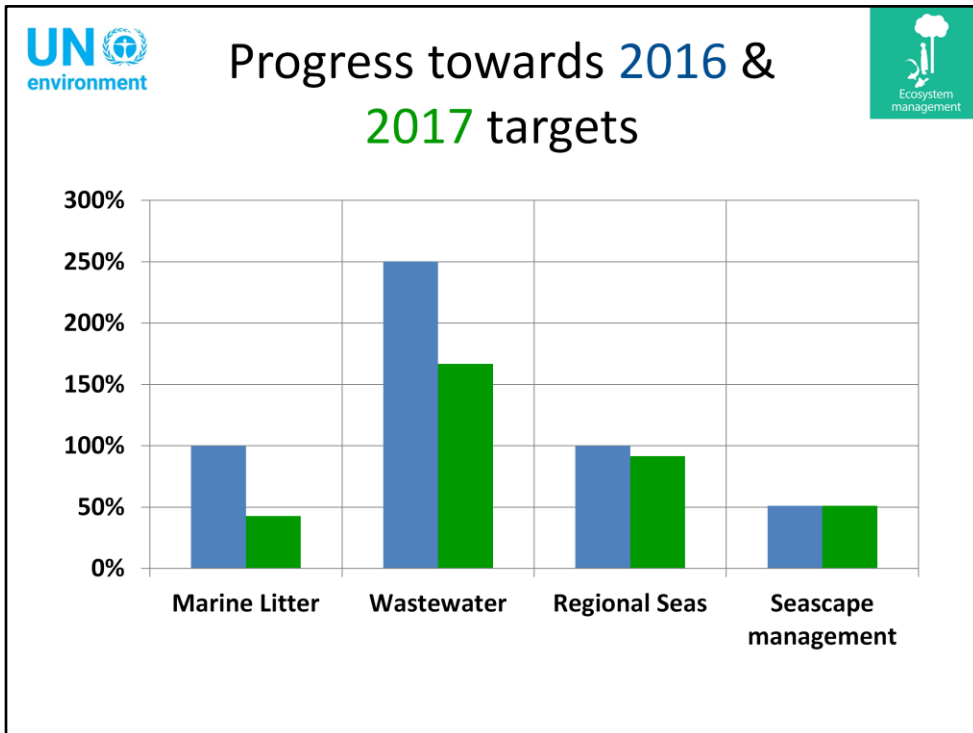
This work stream delivers on the following United Nations Environment Assembly II resolutions:

- 2/10 Oceans and Seas
- 2/11 Marine plastic litter and microplastics
- 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs

For further information on progress on United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions see separate update document.



Country progress in adopting or updating wastewater or marine litter action plans.



We have 4 indicators for Expected Accomplishment B as shown on this slide.

- Indicator EAb(i): Achievement of 2017 target (7 additional entities) likely as 5 countries or other entities have already demonstrated adoption of marine litter action plans. Mid-term target (2016) was only 2 entities.
- Indicator EAb(ii): 2016 mid-term target and the 2017 end target achieved. 2017 target (3 additional entities) achieved as 5 countries or other entities have already demonstrated adoption of wastewater action plans. Mid-term target (2016) was 2 entities.
- Indicator EAb(iii): Achievement of 2017 target (12 additional entities) highly likely as 11 regional seas or their members states have already demonstrated implementation of the ecosystem approach.
- Indicator EAb(iv): Under this indicator we use global targets (10%) and datasets (World Database on Protected Areas) for Marine Protected Areas. The current coverage is 5.12%. Examples of progress: Palau has with UN Environment support expanded its national marine protected area network with 8 sites bringing the total amount of sites to 13 and these protected areas account now for a total of 20% of Palau's marine area. For Micronesia the number of sites was increased by 9 to a total of 13 sites with a total coverage of 7%, Marshall Islands added another 47 sites to a total of 54 with a total coverage of 18% of their marine area. Furthermore, Nauru has established a marine spatial plan covering the whole of Nauru.



World's largest marine park created in Ross Sea in Antarctica in landmark deal. The new protected area covers 1.5 million square-kilometer (more than twice the size of Texas), and will protect everything from fish stocks, penguins and whales. Some of the major benefits from the protected area include time for fish stocks to recover, conservation of unique biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity in the face of climate change.

The Ross Sea marine protected area had been under negotiations for 5 years: Ordinary business as usual needed a push and with the support of Lewis Pugh, UN Environment Patron of the Oceans, and his "Speedo" diplomacy the final decision on establishing the protected area was reached.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIS1PGOQN80>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZjeHflmLeU>


<https://twitter.com/NatGeo/status/814486133874642945>

UN
environment

Green Fins

ecosystem management

- Private sector engagement
- Operates in 7 countries, 500+ operators certified
- [Two minutes with Jim Tooney](#)



www.greenfins.net

Green Fins Green Fins

Created to increase public awareness and management practices that will benefit the conservation of coral reefs and reduce unsustainable tourism practices, it is overseen by our Coral Reef Unit based in Bangkok in collaboration with the UK charity The Reef-World Foundation.

Green Fins is a comprehensive approach that encourages dive centres and snorkel operators, local communities and governments to work together to reduce their environmental impacts. This is primarily done through the private sector adopting a Code of Conduct that will help mitigate their impacts when carrying out marine tourism activities.

The Code of Conduct consists of 15 points, which target environmental threats posed by the tourism industry, both under water and on land. Green Fins members receive the training and the tools to promote environmental education and awareness, tapping into the tourists and the diving community, which is shifting more and more towards eco-friendly initiatives as a result of the demand from the consumer.

Green Fins dives even deeper as it creates a network through which dive centres, local and national governments and communities who work together to tackle local environmental threats to protect livelihoods and food security.

Members, who join for free, receive annual assessments, training and feedback to help them achieve the Code of Conduct points, that not only standardises membership but also allows a system for measurable progress and collaboration between stakeholders.

Green Fins operate in 7 countries and more than 500 operators are certified.

Two minutes with Jim Tooney
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzThAlkmitQ>

UN environment (c) Ecosystems integrated with development planning and accounting and the implementation of multilateral agreements

- Work streams
 - Economic lens to ecosystems
 - Inclusion in development progress measures
 - Development strategies
 - Knowledge and data
- UN Environment Assembly resolutions: 2/13,15



Our work on integrating ecosystems into development planning and accounting and supporting countries implement multilateral environmental agreements include bringing an economic lens to ecosystems to help motivate different stakeholder groups to engage in ecosystem management and to have a better understanding of their dependence and impact on ecosystems. This work includes the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and building up data on the flow and stocks of ecosystem goods and services.

A promising work stream is the Inclusive Wealth Index (www.inclusivewealthindex.org) which seeks to complement the Gross Domestic Product as the main measure of development.

We also support countries develop various policy frameworks which integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services for example; National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (Convention on Biological Diversity) and National Action Programmes to combat desertification (United Nations Convention on Combatting Desertification).

As for building the knowledge-base, we work with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (IPBES) in support of the sub-global and national ecosystem assessments. Furthermore, UN Environment-World Conservation Monitoring Centre maintains the World Database on Protected Areas, supports countries and the biodiversity-related multi-lateral agreements with biodiversity indicator design and data collection (Biodiversity Indicators Partnership).

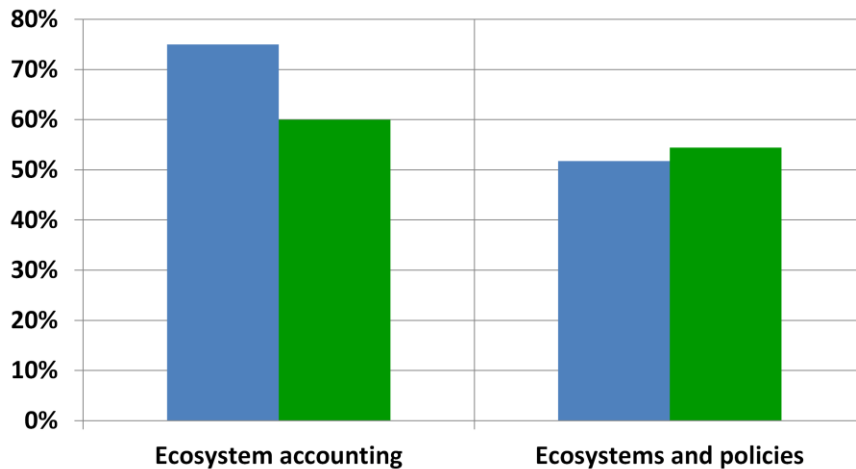
This work stream delivers on the following United Nations Environment Assembly II resolutions:
 2/13 Sustainable management of natural capital
 2/15 Mainstreaming biodiversity

For further information on progress on United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions see separate update document.



The map demonstrates which countries have, by the end of 2016 and with UN Environment support, put in place formal or experimental natural capital accounts.

Progress towards 2016 & 2017 targets



We have 2 indicators for Expected Accomplishment C as shown on this slide.

- Indicator EAc(i) on natural capital accounts: Achievement of 2017 target (10 additional entities) likely as 6 countries have already put in place formal or experimental accounts progress. Mid-term target is 8 countries.
- Indicator EAc(ii) on integrating ecosystems in policies and development plans: Achievement of 2017 target (90 additional countries) highly un-likely as only 44 countries have demonstrated progress at the end of 2016. Mid-term target is 85 countries. The indicator targets are over ambitious.

Programme delivery and reporting

- Achieved overall budget target but mainly earmarked
=> can't move to under funded/performing areas
- Delivery of integrated ecosystem management
 - Right amount of funding in right places at the right time
 - Sectoral legacy
- 2016-2017 indicator formulation



- While UN Environment has been successful to raise resources to the same tune as the overall target budget, the funds raised are mostly earmarked. And as the contributions to the Environment Fund have been lower than targeted, our ability to fund work streams which are an organizational priority but not a donor priority e.g., such as including ecosystems in education frameworks is hampered.
- Our funding for ecosystem management tends to be for pieces of the puzzle rather than for a comprehensive support on integrated ecosystem management e.g., ecosystem economics in one country and cross-sectoral institutions in the next.
- Most countries have set up their ecosystem management structure (budgets, accountability, performance monitoring) according to sectors. Transitioning to integrated ecosystem management will require buy-in from all line-ministries as part of a wider sustainable development transition and a system-wide change covering all aspects of UN Environment Programmes (e.g. Environment under Review, Environmental Governance, Resource Efficiency). This systematic change is complex to monitor and it is likely to take a long time. Major political will is needed from countries.
- The formulation of 2016-2017 indicators:
 - the indicators changed from the 2014-2015 cycle which prevents us from looking at longer-term progress
 - indicator targets set as percentage of countries assisted by UN Environment but the size of the population is difficult to set as the impact of work comes with a delay. Furthermore, the targets are set so high that usage of all 193 UN member countries would be unreasonable. Targets/ambition level also vary from indicator to indicator preventing us to use the same approach across indicators.

Opportunities

- Financial decision-making and ecosystems
- Common understanding on integrated ecosystem management
- 2018-2021 Mid-Term Strategy and Agenda 2030 indicators

1. Major interest in aligning public and private financial decision-making with ecosystem level objectives. De-risking and win-win prospects spearhead this drive. Examples:
 - a) Inclusion of ecosystem related risks in sovereign credit analysis
www.unepfi.org/fileadmin/documents/ERISC_Phase2.pdf
 - b) Tropical Forest and Agriculture Fund
 - Low interest loans (concessional finance) in exchange for # ha forest protected
 - USD 100 m commitment from Norway. USD 2 m GEF/UN Environment. Aim: raise USD 400 m. Leverage ratio 1:4
 - Initial focus: Indonesia, Liberia and Brazil
 - Objective: cushion costs for companies & countries to achieve zero (net) deforestation
 - b) Seed Capital Assistance Facility for Forest and Landscape Restoration (SCAF-FLR)
 - SCAF-FLR will provide grants and, potentially, reimbursable grants and technical assistance to fund managers who are fundraising, co-finance pipeline and early stage project costs of fund managers, and build a track record of investable assets in the FLR domain.

2. A common understanding on integrated ecosystem management is emerging and our capacity to address complex systems has never been higher. Recognition that all expertise is needed is likely to reduce sense of competition between change agents and line ministries.

3. The alignment between our 2018-2021 Mid-term Strategy/Programme of Work and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development will help bridge between UN Environment impact and global progress. Further, 30 of the Agenda 2030 indicators are under the custodianship of UN Environment.

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