



Fourth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
Agenda item 3: Implementation of UN Environment Work on Environment under Review
Nairobi, 7 March 2017

The work under the Environment under Review subprogramme focuses on strengthening the interface between science, policy and governance by bridging the gap between the producers and users of environmental information and better linking science with policy.



Overview of Presentation

1. Vision 2030
2. Objectives of the Subprogramme and Outcomes
3. Overview of the portfolio
4. Overview of progress, including UNEA resolutions
5. Case study
6. Science Policy, Private Sector, Equity and Gender Considerations
7. Global Opportunities
8. Questions and Answers

The presentation will set out our Vision for the Subprogramme – and in particular how it contributes to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

An overview will be provided on progress in key deliverables, such as the Global Environment Outlook, as well as on the programme’s contribution to implementing the UN Environment Assembly resolutions.

We will spotlight some of the work in the form of a case study and conclude the presentation by bringing into focus a number of emerging and critical issues in moving forward with the Subprogramme, such as the opportunities to partner with the private sector and the needs to leave no one behind.



The Environment under Review subprogramme was established in 2014 with the aim to empower stakeholders in their policy and decision making by providing scientific information and knowledge and keeping the world environment under review. In our work, we focus on three main areas:

- **Assessment** where UN Environment facilitates global, regional and national policy-making from environmental information made available on open platforms
- **Early warning** where UN Environment enables better policy planning that incorporates information on emerging environmental issues
- **Information management** where UN Environment enhances the capacity of countries to generate, access, analyze, use and communicate environmental information and knowledge



Vision 2030

By 2030, **evidence-based policy making** informed by robust data and assessments fully **integrates the environmental dimension of sustainable development**, resulting in shared prosperity for all within the ecological limits of the planet

- **Principles and policies:** enabling governments and other stakeholders to keep the global environment under review
- **Delivery:** Medium-Term Strategy including UN Environment Assembly resolutions

Our ultimate goal is that by 2030, evidence-based policy making (informed by robust data and assessments) fully integrates the environmental dimension of sustainable development, resulting in shared prosperity for all within the ecological limits of the planet.

We work towards this on the basis of principles and policies to enabling governments and other stakeholders to keep the global environment under review.

Our delivery is guided by the Medium-Term Strategy including UN Environment Assembly resolutions

The following could be seen as indicators for success for achieving the 2030 vision:

- All countries are fully reporting on environment-related SDG indicators
- Policy action on the environmental dimension of sustainable development is based on the use of environmental data, information and assessments

Objectives and 2021 Outcome



Environment under Review objective:

Governments/stakeholders empowered with quality assessments and access to data/information to deliver environmental dimension of sustainable development

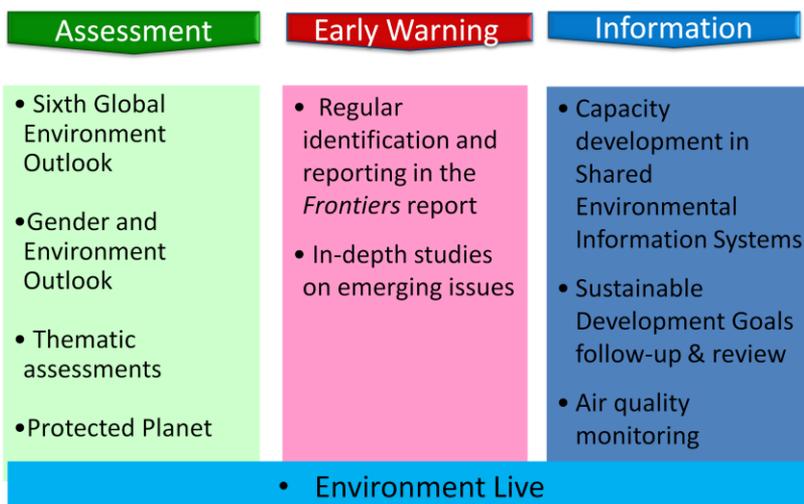
Outcome: Governments/stakeholders use environmental data/analyses that **strengthen the science-policy interface** to generate environmental assessments, identify **emerging issues** and **foster policy action**



Project portfolio: Coherent follow-up and review on environmental goals and indicators; thematic and integrated assessments (including the Global Environment Outlook, Environment Live open access knowledge platform; foresight services, and country capacity development in information management)

The above diagramme shows the expected outcome for the 2018-2021 Medium-Term Strategy. In order to achieve this outcome, we have developed a coherent portfolio of projects that integrates the aspects or data and information, assessment and emerging issues, as well as the strengthening of the capacity of countries to follow-up and review progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed environmental goals.

2016-2017 Portfolio Overview

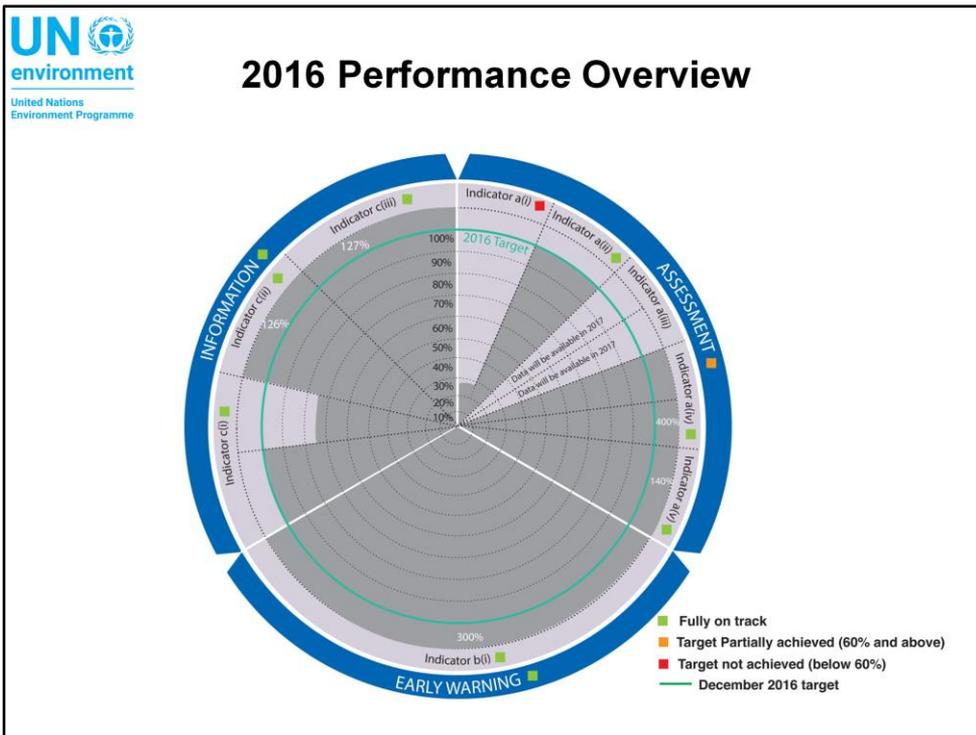


Coming back to 2017, our current portfolio is structured as follows:

- A workstream on data, information and assessments
- Our work on emerging issues relevant to the environment
- Capacity development in the area of data, information and reporting

However, all the work is highly interrelated and 'Environment Live', UN Environment's online global knowledge platform that provides open access to data and information (formerly known as UNEP Live) is supporting all areas of work.

The Subprogramme currently also leads on important work on air quality monitoring and assessment. This work will however move to the 'Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality' programme from 2018 onwards.



The 2016 performance indicators show progress made at the mid-point of the 2016-2017 biennium. Whereas good progress have been made in the areas of data, information and partnerships, evidence on the use of assessments by other UN Agencies and multilateral environmental agreements is not yet on target. However, as custodian agency – in reality many UN agencies are using Un Environment data made available through Environment Live. Furthermore, with the recent release of the regional assessment, we expect to see more evidence in the coming months and dedicated efforts will be undertaken to gather this information.

The work under early warning keeps getting traction and seems well on track. As usual, a survey will be held by the end of the biennium targeting all governments and stakeholders to confirm the use of our emerging issues work.



Highlight: Global Environment Outlook

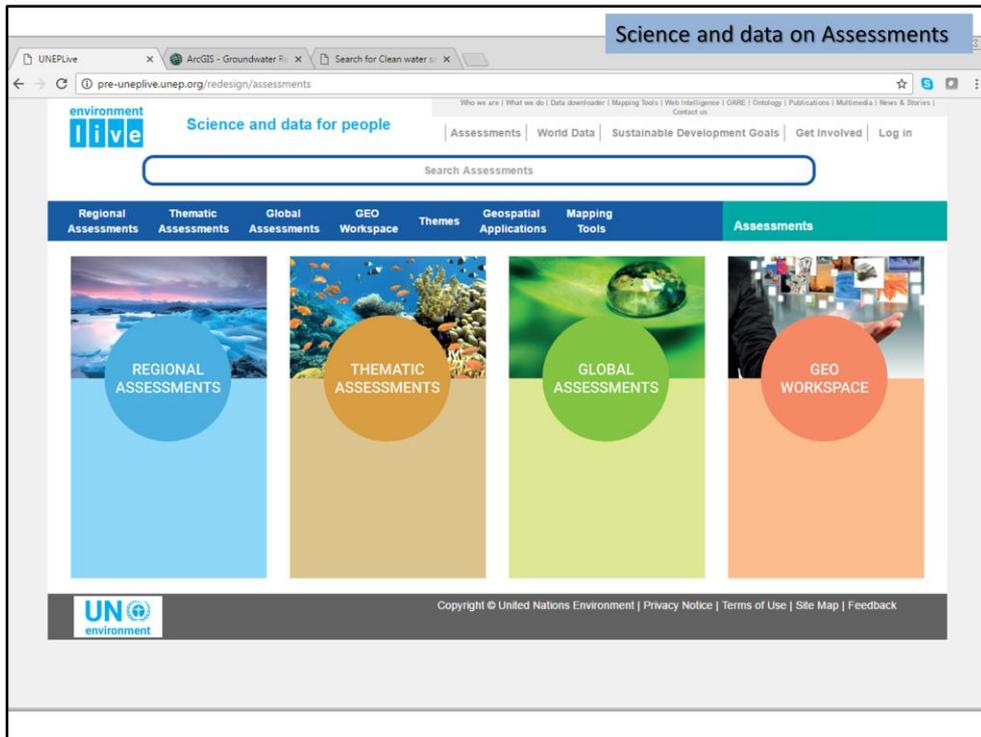
- **Six regional assessments** delivered by the 2nd UN Environment Assembly
- **First global authors' meeting**, 20-24 Feb 2017 hosted by Italy
- **Second and third global authors' meeting** in May and October 2017
- **Third UN Environment Assembly, 2017**: progress report provided on environmental state and trends; process will also inform pollution paper
- **Fourth UN Environment Assembly, 2019**: full Global Environment Outlook report and Summary for Policy Makers released; findings widely shared
- **High Level Political Forum, Global Sustainable Development Report**: Contributions will be made to the reports on the relevant themes

The Global Environment Outlook reports every 4-5 years on the state of the global environment, policy responses in addressing major environmental challenges, and future prospects or outlook for the environment. It is an important tool for tracking progress towards environmental goals.

The assessment process for the sixth Global Environment Outlook began in early 2015 with a series of Regional Environmental Information Network conferences to help define the priorities for the assessment in each region and the production of six regional environmental assessments that form the foundation of the global assessment, in particular for the state of the environment and the policy response.

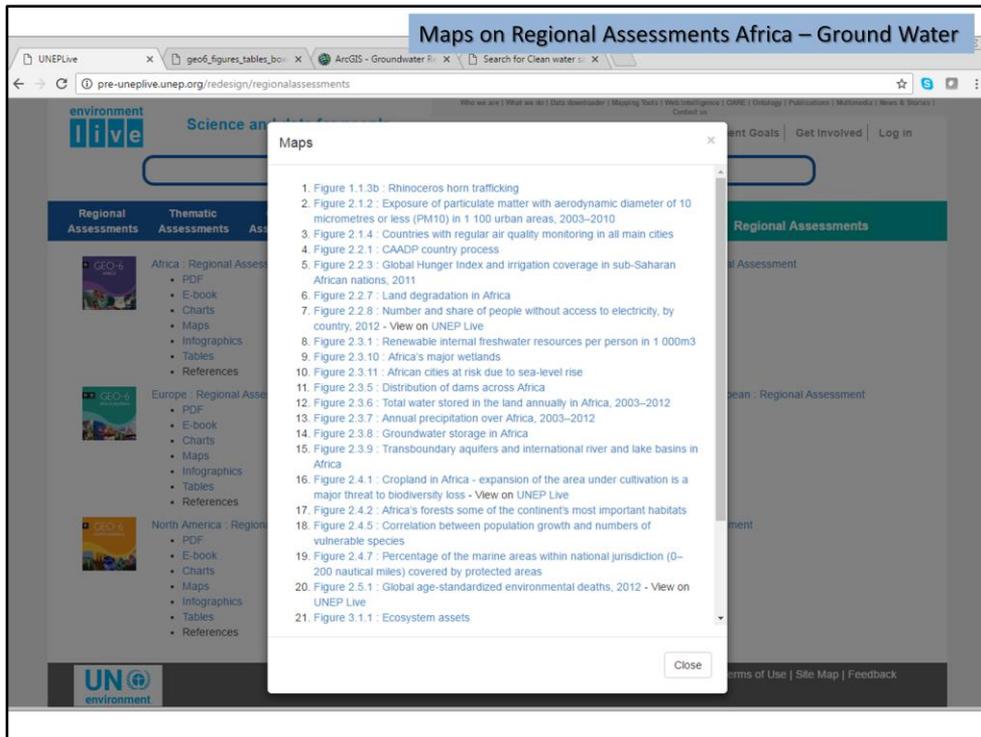
The first author's meeting will take place at the ESRIN facilities in Frascati, with the generous support of the Government of Italy. The second and third authors meeting are planned for May and October 2017, and funding and hosting arrangements are being explored. A progress report on the state and trends will be delivered for the third UN Environment Assembly in December 2017. The full Global Environment Outlook report and its Summary for Policy Makers will be delivered by the fourth UN Environment Assembly in 2019.

One of the challenges faced was that an uncertain funding situation due to low income made it difficult to plan ahead and do meaningful forecasting. At the same time there is tremendous potential for the Global Environment Outlook to inform policy processes.



‘Environment Live’ is supporting the assessment process by providing direct links to the regional assessments; to relevant thematic assessment, data and information; to the Sustainable Development Goals and other indicators; charts and map, as well as access to web intelligence.

‘Environment Live’ also offers collaborative workspaces for all the authors groups and the Global Environment Outlook advisory bodies.



The development of assessments and 'Environment Live' goes hand in hand. For example, all maps used in the regional assessments can be found on 'Environment Live' with a link to the source data. The source data can often be disaggregated to regional or national level.

During the authors meetings, authors are identifying relevant data sets for the assessments. 'Environment Live' will work in tandem with the authors and data providers to provide access to such data.

In all our efforts, we aim to promote open access to data and information to enable governments and stakeholders to access and use relevant information for their actions and policy processes.



Highlight: Frontiers

- Six emerging issues identified for 2017 report:

1. Antimicrobial resistance
2. Sand and dust storms
3. Off-grid solar power
4. Marine protected areas
5. Displacement
6. Nanomaterials



- 2017 *Frontiers* report to be launched - World Environment Day, 5 June 2017

The Frontiers series is UN Environment's annual highlight of emerging issues relevant to the environment. In 2016, the report focused on the increase in zoonotics (diseases that transfer from organisms to men), microplastics, the role of the financial sector, trade in live animals, loss and damage, and plant toxicity induced by climatic changes.

For 2017, the following six issues have been identified: anti-microbial resistance; preventative measures against sand and dust-storms; off-grid distributed solar power; marine protected areas; environmental dimension of displacement, and technological developments in nano-materials and chemicals.

In order to timely feed into relevant discussions, such as those related to the third session of the UN Environment Assembly, we aim at launching the report during World Environment Day in June this year.



Highlight: Sustainable Development Goals indicators

- **Six indicators reported:** UN Secretary-General's annual report
 - Custodian **agency for 26 environment-related Sustainable Development Goals indicators** – many require methodology development
 - Partner with **UN Statistical Division, UN Regional Commissions** and three other UN Agencies to strengthen monitoring and reporting on environmental dimension
 - Linkages between Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateral Environmental Agreements analyzed and visualized on **Environment Live**
 - Over **900 indicators in Environment Live** global database to measure trends and track progress towards environmental goals
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements play an important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and there are clear linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals; good international collaboration with partners takes time to develop, but is critical for success

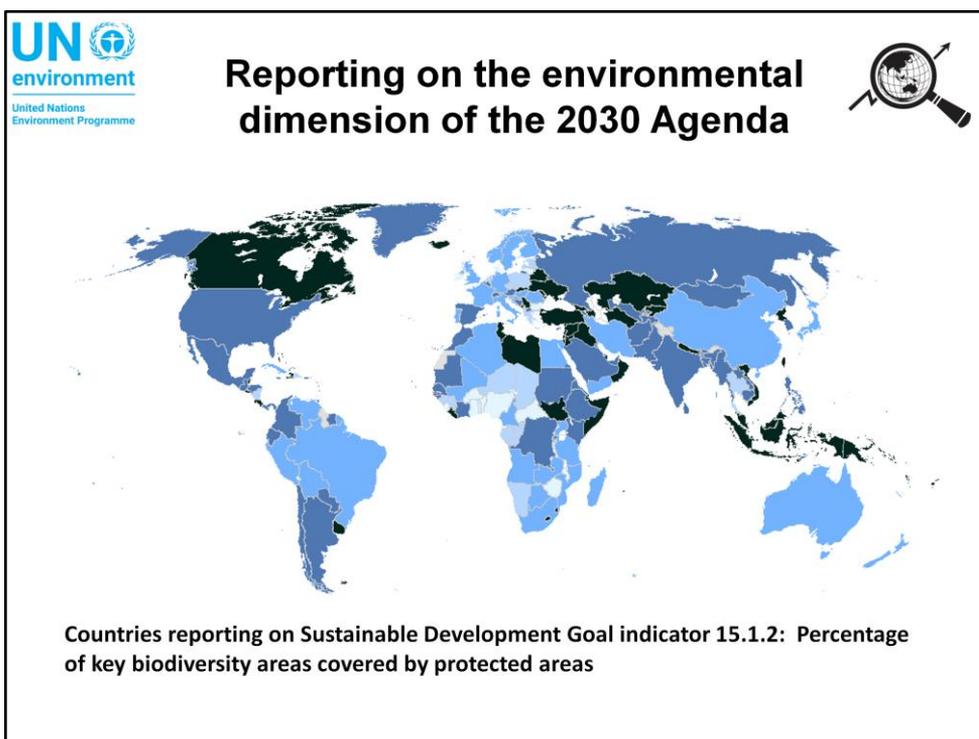
Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires integration of the goals in science, policy and governance; monitoring and reporting on the goals; and public engagement.

As requested by UNEA 2/5 Delivering on the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the project focuses on:

- Inputs to the UN Economic and Social Council and the High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals
- Developing methodologies and collecting data for specific Sustainable Development Goal indicators (under the auspices of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators).

Our work aims at embedding the Sustainable Development Goals in the scientific assessments, policy support and governance work of UN Environment. The work on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals is spearheaded by the Science Division and aligned with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group.

Note: The Inter Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals has a mandate from the UN Statistical Commission which was tasked by the General Assembly to develop The Global Indicator Framework. UN Environment has been requested by the Group to be Custodian Agency for 26 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, co-custodian for 6 and involved in many others.



This map shows an overview of countries that reported on the percentage of key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas (Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.2).

This is one of the six global indicators reported on by UN Environment in the 2016 Secretary-General's progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nearly all countries reported. The intensity of the blue colour shading shows the level of change.

Underlying the Environment Live platform is the Global Database with more than 900 indicators that adhere to a set criteria.



The Environment Live platform (formerly known as UNEP Live) responds to UN Environmental Assembly resolution 2/5.

It aims to provide credible, up-to-date information to support the follow-up and review of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, at all levels, by establishing a long-term plan for the maintenance of the programme and the relevance of its content, and ensuring good traceability of the data and information made accessible through it.

The current platform renewal is being implemented to respond to the resolution, as well as to enhance the usability of the platform, providing better access to information.

environment
i | v | e
Science and data for people

Assessments | World Data | Sustainable Development Goals | Get involved | Log in

Country Profile | Maps and Data | Legal Instruments | Resources | Data Downloader | Themes | Geospatial Applications | Mapping Tools | **Uganda**

Uganda Select Country/Region/Global

Legal Instruments
Reporting obligations [InforMEA](#)

Show 10 entries Search:

Obligation	Legislative Instrument	Report To	Reporting Format	Deadline
DDT Registration	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention	DDT Questionnaires	2016-12-31
Implementation plan	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention	Guidance for Developing a National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	
National Report	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention	Electronic Reporting System of the Stockholm Convention (SC-ERS)	2018-12-31
National Report	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	UNEP-CMS Secretariat	CMS Family Online Reporting System	2017-04-30
National report on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Convention on Biological Diversity	Convention on Biological Diversity	National Reports Guidelines	2017-03-31
Thematic reports	Convention on Biological Diversity	Convention on Biological Diversity	Thematic Reports Guidelines	
Yearly report to the Basel Convention	Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal	Basel Convention	Electronic Reporting System of the Basel Convention	2015-12-31

For each country, Environment Live not only provides access to country-level information, but it also provides an overview of reporting obligations under various conventions.

Portfolio Progress: Delivering on UN Environment Resolutions



Selected UN Environment Assembly resolution follow-up:

Resolution 2/5: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Implementation of monitoring, reporting information systems for the 2030 Agenda
- Consideration of goals in the Global Environment Outlook
- Innovative approaches that consider specifically the achievement of the 2030 agenda;
- Expanding the vision long term monitoring progress towards achievement of the 2030 agenda
- Submit and develop all indicators required for follow-up and review of the environmental pillar of the 2030 Agenda.
- In partnership with national statistics offices and relevant ministries to undertake capacity development and deployment of indicator and data collection.
- Full implementation plans for Sustainable Development Indicators for the annual report by the UN Secretary General and for follow-up and review by High Level Political Forum.
- Continuing to collaborate with other relevant UN bodies and to facilitate the work of scientific panels that provide integrated assessments to support policymaking

Others include Resolution 2/24: Combating desertification, land degradation and drought, promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands

In follow-up to UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 the programme is putting in place plans and action in a number of areas – such as those listed one the slide.



United Nations
Environment Programme

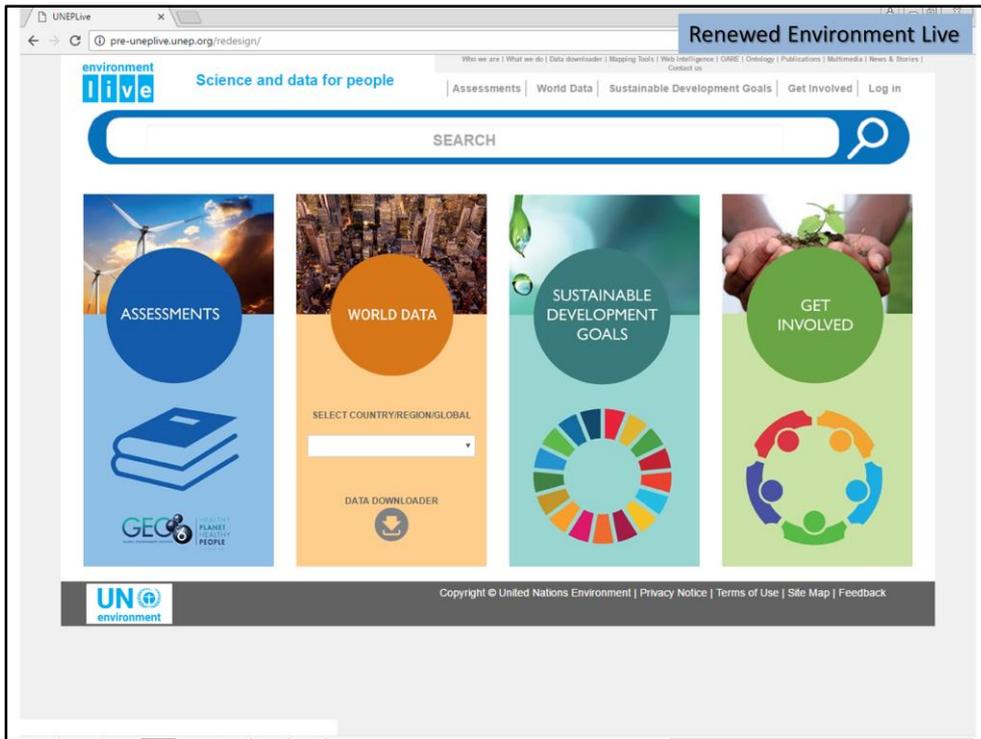
Environment Live: The knowledge integrator



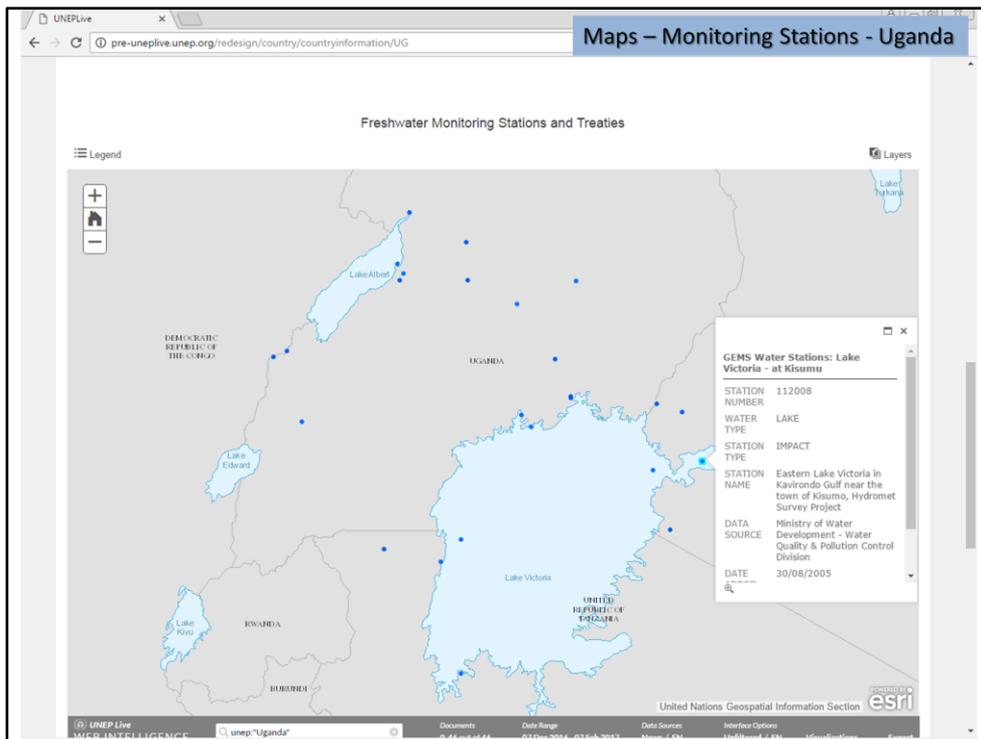
- Open online platform for environmental data, statistics, information, assessments with over 900 indicators and maps
- Mapping and search tools, social media tracking, theme pages, citizen science and communities of practice
- Linkages and synergies between goals, targets and indicators



Demonstration of the Environment Live platform



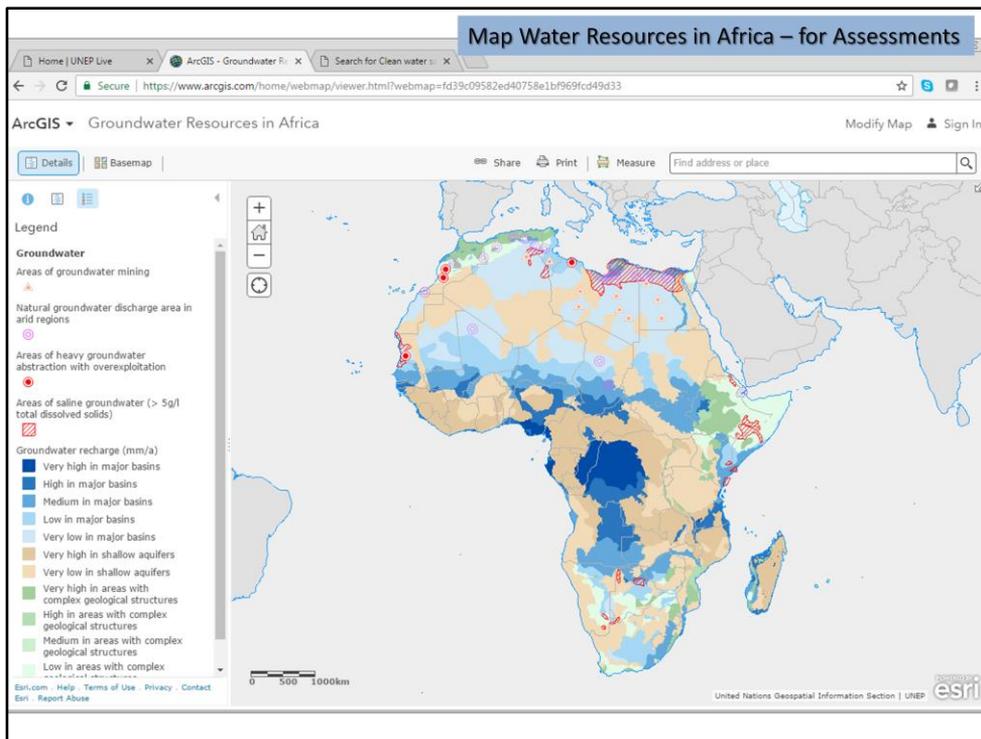
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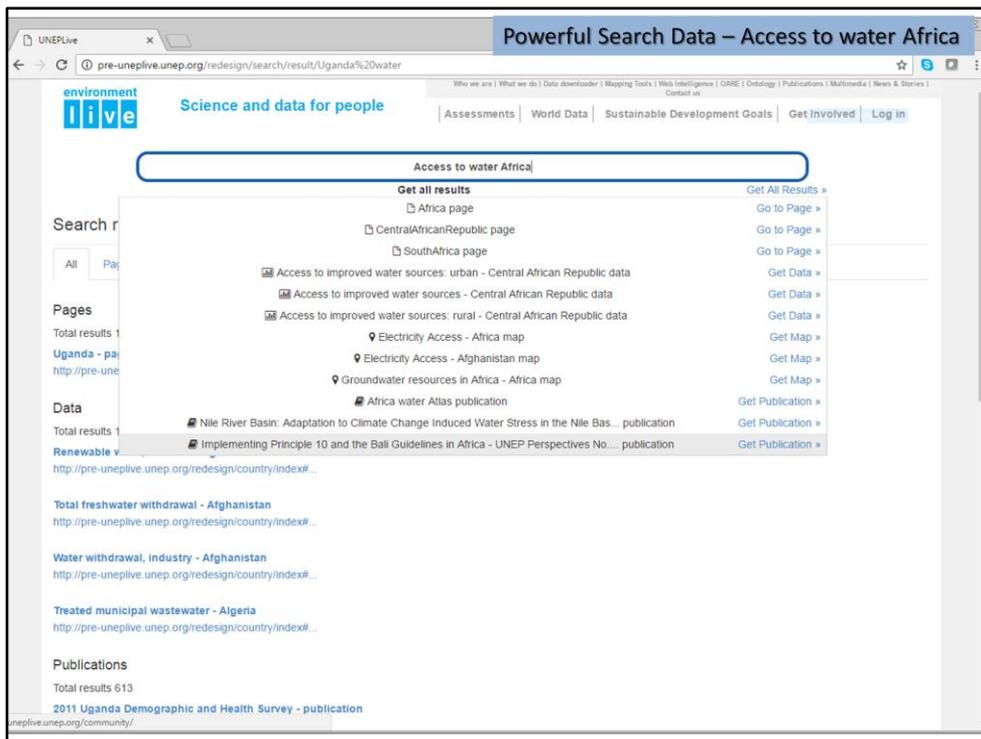
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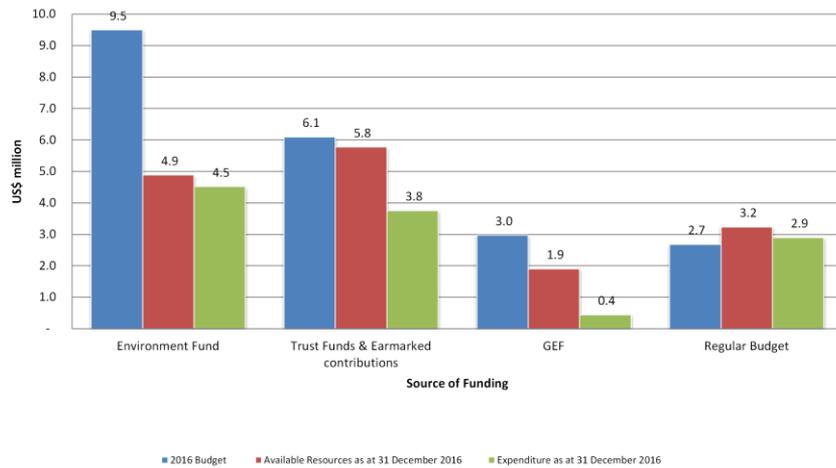


Demonstration of the Environment Live platform



Demonstration of the Environment Live platform

Portfolio Progress: Funding



The figure shows the funding situation for the subprogramme by funding source in 2016. Blue bars indicate the budget, red bars the available resources and green bars the expenditure as at 31 December 2016.

Portfolio Progress: Funding



- Whereas core activities are being delivered, the shortfall in income hampers full roll out and upscaling of the programme's strategy
- It also limits opportunities to fully realize the potential of taking on board new technologies, such as Earth observation, and working with partners

Assessment	Early warning	Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sixth Global Environment Outlook• Gender and thematic outlooks outreach• Environment Live	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frontiers report• Regional emerging environmental issues identification• Foresight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capacity in environmental statistics• Earth observation• Regional environmental networks

A shortfall in income may hamper full roll out and upscaling of the programme's strategy: whereas the core activities are delivered, limited funding can be made available for outreach, engagement, translations, distribution, strategic presence, information networking, sharing and learning lessons

It may also limit our capacity to take on board new technologies, such as Earth observation and realize the potential of working with citizen, the private sector and other stakeholders. Partnerships will be paramount for delivery in these areas.

Sharing environmental information: a common approach



From Kazakhstan to Uganda, UN Environment assists countries in strengthening environmental reporting and evidence-based decision making

Case study

Knowing state and trends: a healthy outlook for all



A consistent approach to environmental data and information sharing, bringing together multiple lines of donor funding (Global Environment Facility, European Union, UN), will result in coherent follow-up and review to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

Case study

Science Policy, Private Sector, Equity and Gender Considerations



- Rapid changes and pressing issues in our environment demand quick analyses and access to available environmental knowledge: there is great need to timely linking science to policy
- Powerful opportunities exist also to work more with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, science bodies and networks, and the private sector – notably on information technology, open access, data sharing and big data analysis
- The relationships between gender and environment need further attention: not always seen as a UN Environment Powerful opportunities exist also to work more with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, science bodies and networks, and the private sector – notably on information technology, open access, data sharing and big data analysis

Rapid changes and pressing issues in our environment demand quick analyses and access to available environmental knowledge: Environment Live will help provide open access to such data whereas the Global Environment Outlook, Frontiers and other assessments ensure timely analysis and communication by their processes, linking science to policy

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Global Opportunities

- The portfolio design is coherent with close connection between the different elements: with continued implementation of the work under this programme, UN Environment will consolidate its position and *the* online hub for open access to environmental data and knowledge within the UN and globally
- Further strengthening of our work with government, regional commissions, other UN entities, funding partners, citizens and other stakeholders, in the implementation of the programme will get us to a higher level of ambition
- UN Environment is committed to step up the tracking of impact and take on lessons learned by mobilizing its networks and approaching target audiences, and welcomes your contributions and views on further strengthening the approach

The portfolio design is coherent with close connections between the different elements: with continued implementation of the work under this programme, UN Environment will further consolidate and expand on current work.

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UN Environment is committed to step up the tracking of impact and take on lessons learned by mobilizing its networks and approaching target audiences, and welcomes your contributions and views on further strengthening the approach

Questions and Answers



Contact information

- Lead director: Jacqueline.McGlade@unep.org
- Coordinator: Tessa.Goverse@unep.org