Project Portfolio for

Environment under Review –

Subprogramme 7

Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021

19 April 2017

SIGNATURES		
Name of Lead Director for [subprogramme name] Subprogramme:	**Approval Signature**	Date: 28 / 4 /2017
Name ofDirector of Policy and Programme Division:	**Approval Signature**	Date: 04 / 05 /2017

1. Portfolio Overview

To enhance policy making and stakeholder action through timely, accurate and relevant knowledge to deliver on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, the Environment under Review portfolio focuses on six areas: 1) tracking progress towards internationally agreed environmental global goals and targets; 2) timely delivery of integrated environmental assessments at global and regional levels, 3) demand-driven thematic assessments, 4) identification and analysis of emerging issues, 5) enhanced online access to data and knowledge on open platforms, and 6) strengthening of countries' statistical data and reporting capacity.

a) What is new

- Shift towards indicator-based reporting in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Stronger focus on the benefits that the programme can bring to regions, countries and cities in their efforts to keep the environment under review and implement the 2030 Agenda
- Strategic upfront embedding of stakeholder engagement, outreach and impact monitoring in the design of programmes/projects at global, regional, country and city level
- A closer linkage to society by strengthening the science-society-policy interface
- A foresight process that will complement work on frontier issues to inform UN Environment's management and strategy development as well as environmental assessments
- Better use of earth observation programmes in collaboration with (private sector) partners to capitalize on the increasing volume of online data, satellite imagery, citizen science and so on
- New emphasis on data disaggregation and regular review of gender-environment linkages across the portfolio to help guide policy action towards gender equality

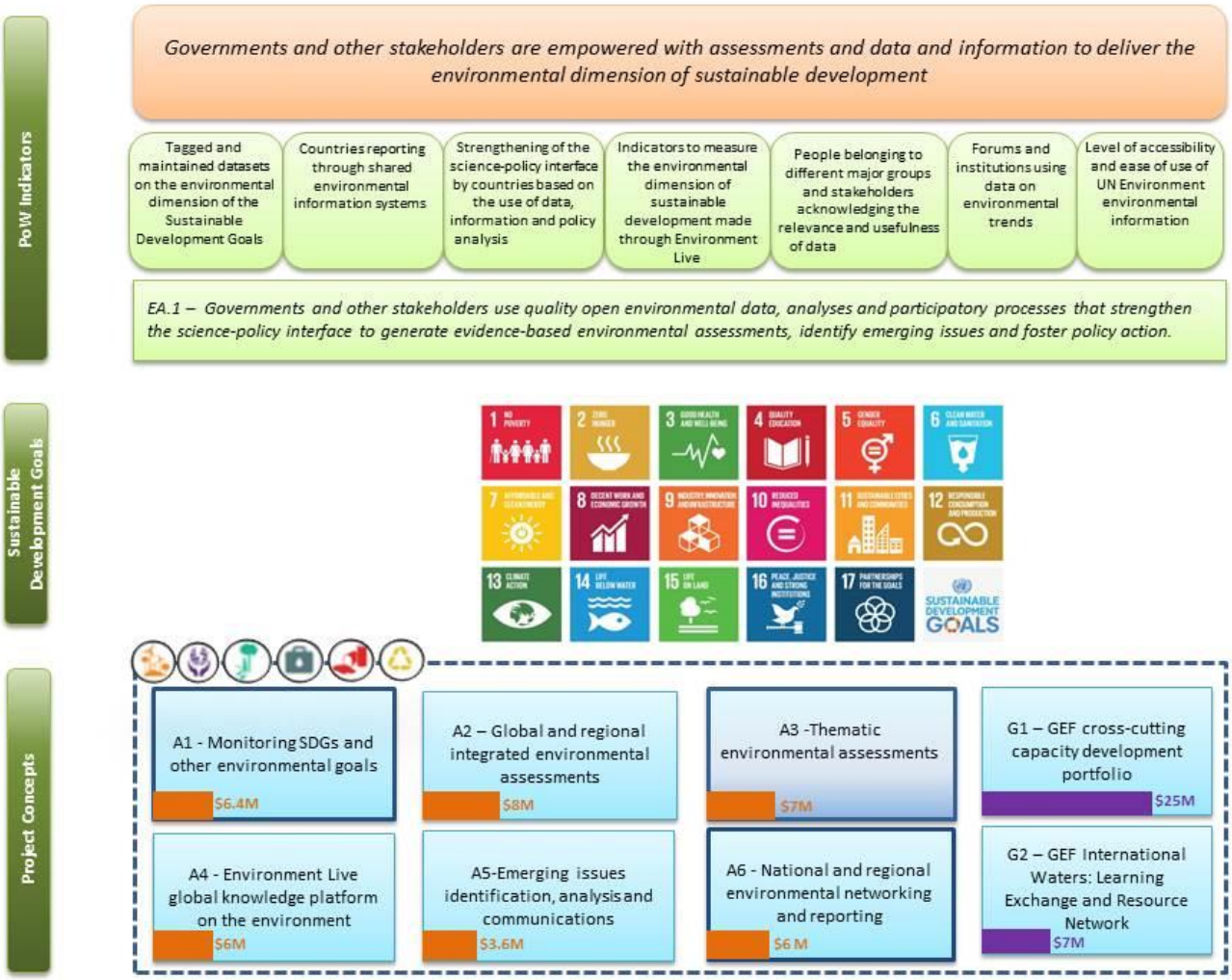
b) What is the same

- A strong focus on linking science with policy and governance to timely respond to environmental challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing world
- The continuation of the *Global Environment Outlook* series, supported by Environment Live, environment-related indicators, emerging issues and thematic assessments, as UN Environment's flagship on state and trends in the global environment
- Demand-driven country-level and regional support as the backbone for enhancing shared environmental information systems and environmental reporting
- As custodian agency for 26 Sustainable Development Goals indicators, delivery on UN Environment's international commitments, such as the Secretary-General's annual progress report on the Goals and the Global Sustainable Development Report, and working with (UN) partners to strengthen Sustainable Development Goals indicator frameworks to support countries in their statistical capacity

c) What has been dropped

- As a result of the strong interplay between Environment Live, assessments and capacity development, the number of 'expected accomplishments' have been reduced from three to one for the 2018-2021 period, building further coherence and continuity in the delivery of outputs and outcomes as well as in the prioritization of interventions and resources
- Work on air quality currently embedded in the Environment under Review programme is moved to the Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality programme from 2018 onwards
- Certain specific activities and initiatives that were regarded as less strategic have been dropped from the programme

2. Portfolio Diagram



3. Problem Analysis

Bridging the gap between science, society and policy is an important challenge for environmental decision-making many countries. Governments, international organizations and a wide range of stakeholders have raised this issue over past years, pushing the international agenda to take concrete action on implementing an effective and inclusive science-society-policy interface. A big challenge remains to fill existing data gaps in environmental information. Despite great progress made over the past years, environmental information still remains incomplete and/or hard to access in many areas.

The transmission and communication of data and information also present a challenge. Integrated environmental assessments are considered as the main tool to inform decision makers. However, these have often been criticized for lacking empirical evidence and for using technical language that is not appropriate for the general public, but only understandable to professionals or scientists in the field. In addition, the tendency to focus on global averages and trends oftentimes obscures social and equity issues that are relevant for the identification of solutions to the challenges identified. In some cases, the distance between science, society and policy is due to more profound reasons, such as national education systems or culture and history. Whereas open access policies are now embraced by many countries, policies encouraging or imposing the use of evidence-based decision–making are still not commonplace.

Easy to grasp, targeted and well communicated policy-relevant assessments and analyses, informed by regional priorities, will help strengthen the science-society-policy interface. Strong partnerships with expert networks and scientific bodies, enhanced country capacity in environmental reporting and data use, and regular reviews of the environmental dimension of sustainable development informing the UN Environment Assembly and other high-level political forums will also do so this. Supported by the Environment Live global knowledge platform, the Global Environment Outlook process and regional environmental information networks will regularly assess progress towards global environmental goals, strengthen data and information networks, and keep the environment under review.

The world contains many areas where complexity is growing. Complex systems are unpredictable and require agile and insightful ways of generating evidence to inform policy and action. The identification, analysis and communication of frontier and (re)emerging issues, thematic assessments, gender and environment reviews as well as environment-related information and data initiatives, including those focusing on the disaggregation of data, will help inform environmental analyses and assessments – including on barriers and opportunities for achieving the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. Gender Analysis and addressing inequalities

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and vulnerable groups are critical for sustainable development because they are important social drivers to achieve the environmental dimensions of sustainable development. If no one is to be left behind, the process of keeping the environment under review should integrate consider the gender dimensions. Environmental conditions and change impact differently on the lives of women and men. The way women and men are involved in

environmental management often differs and the access that women and men have to natural capital and ecosystem services is not the same. These differences impact the quality of life and opportunities that men and women enjoy.

The process and outcomes of early warning, environmental assessments and the flow of environmental information should consider gender-related barriers, constraints, opportunities and vulnerabilities that men and women experience in environment-related areas. Where appropriate, a gender perspective and gender-sensitive indicators should be included when assessing the environment. However, there is very little data and information available that specifically captures gender differences in terms of the environment. The Global Gender and Environment Outlook published by UN Environment in 2016 noted that *"one of the strongest messages emerging from the body of analyses and reports on the gender-and-environment nexus is the crucial need for gender disaggregated data. In the absence of such data, environmental analyses remain inadequate and partial, and establishing baselines, monitoring progress and assessing outcomes is almost impossible."* Reasons for the lack of data include the dearth of research and a lack of statistical guidance on measuring the gender-environment nexus, as well as a lack of awareness among environment statisticians and policy makers, and gender statisticians and policy makers, on the importance of bringing the gender-environment nexus into focus.

There is thus an important need to understand relevant gender equality issues and their relation to the environment, and strengthen the ability to articulate gender and environment perspectives in policy development and implementation. The need for gender mainstreaming in the Sustainable Development Goals clearly goes beyond the Sustainable Development Goal 5 *"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"*. The Global Gender and Environment Outlook noted the following priority issues related to gender and the environment, which closely match several Goals:

- Priority issue 1: Rights to land, natural resources and biodiversity (linked to Goals 1, 14 and 15)
- Priority issue 2: Access to food, energy, water and sanitation (linked to Goals 2, 6 and 7)
- Priority issue 3: Well-being: climate change, sustainable consumption and production, and health (linked to Goals 1, 3, 11, 12 and 13)

Gaps in data and statistics which can be used to measure these priority issues need to be addressed in the portfolio during the 2018-2021 timeframe. In addition, good practices and country examples need to be summarized and shared. Relevant stakeholders, such as UN Women, UN Statistics, gender experts and the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment, need to be engaged to guide the process to embed gender in assessments and indicators, and continue to push for integration of gender perspectives in international fora on sustainable environmental management.

Open access to disaggregated data and gender-environment indicators enables governments and stakeholders to develop gender responsive assessments, policies and strategies for sound environmental management. Equitable participation of women and men in assessment processes and mainstreaming of gender in decision-making, implementation, monitoring and reporting are important first steps. The programme is committed to achieve meaningful gender equality results throughout the portfolio by allocating resources to gender data collection and analysis, strengthening gender mainstreaming capacity, and ensuring that gender perspectives are articulated and considered in project design and implementation. The Global Gender and Environment Outlook provides an important foundation for this work.

5. Stakeholder Analysis

The objective of the programme is to empower stakeholders in delivering the environmental dimension of sustainable development by keeping the environment under review. The Rio+20 outcome document '*The Future We Want*' emphasized that sustainable development must be inclusive and people-centred, benefiting and involving all people, including youth and children. Furthermore, the General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1 '*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*' states that "*We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.*" Partnerships are therefore at the core of implementing the programme.

As also emphasized in the previous section, the Environment under Review programme is committed within its scope to foster equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy, society and political decision making as relevant to the environment. This further emphasized the need to work closely with major groups and other stakeholders and encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that contribute to decision making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels.

Partners for the Environment under Review portfolio range from non-governmental organizations and citizen (for example through citizen science) to governments, the scientific community and the private sector. To integrate the environmental dimension of sustainable development in their assessments and analysis, it is imperative for the Environment under Review programme to support state and non-state actors in their efforts. Over the years, UN Environment has developed strong linkages with expert networks and science-policy institutes within the regions and globally, and additional partnerships will be required in new areas of work. For example, we needs to better understand how new data analysis methodologies and tools such as big data analytics, artificial intelligence, sustainable development modelling and simulation tools can be used, as well as how to generate qualitative insights to ensure that our data are meaningful, relevant and inclusive of vulnerable or excluded groups; we can extract value from data to generate real, tangible insights for decision making; and co-create insights with UN colleagues and external colleagues to identify early on those hotspots where will need to be taken.

The UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center, UN Statistics Division, UN Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat, multilateral environmental agreements, the European Commission, the Group on Earth Observation and its Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, which includes the European Space Agency along with other major Space Agencies, Environmental Systems Research Institute and other private sector all play an increasingly important role in the area of environmental monitoring and Earth observation. The GRID centers, the European Environment Agency, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, PBL (Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency), the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Stockholm Environment Institute, several universities and environmental research and policy institutes, and many others are critical partners in the development of environmental analyses and assessments.

To further strengthen the science policy linkages, as requested by Member States, and to ensure continuity in delivering our services (such as integrated assessments) as well as our ability to timely response to emerging issues, the programme aims to build closer ties to science policy partners, such as

centers of environmental expertise that are often nodes in environmental information networks regionally and/or globally. The programme puts forward an investment proposition to (re)invest in collaborating centers networks to deliver on UN Environment's mandate to keep the environment under review and highlight emerging issues to governments and other stakeholders for timely action. These could include the various GRID-centers, the World Conservation and Monitoring Center (WCMC) as well as selected centers of expertise formerly known as GEO Collaborating Centers in the regions (such as CEDARE) as well as globally (such as PBL for outlooks).

Major donors include specific countries, the European Commission, the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund. Although no specific proposals are currently put forward to the latter, it is anticipated that Environment Live will play a key role as the data and knowledge custodian for UN Environment projects funded by the Green Climate Fund. With regard to the Global Environment Facility, a further expansion of country capacity development work is expected, as a result of the high demand, and further consultations are ongoing between the GEF Coordinator and Divisions on additional funding areas.

UN Environment has a strong and active relationship with civil society, which represents an important gateway to the citizens of the world and promotes transparency, participation and access to information. Civil society partners advocate for important causes, provide expertise that enriches UN Environment's decisions, and channel the voices of those most likely to be affected by environmental challenges and policies. Our work with civil society is critical to promoting strong environmental governance. For example, in 2016, UN Environment supported the development of a regional agreement in which Latin American countries commit to giving their citizens better access to information, access to justice, and the opportunity to participate in environmental decision-making. The agreement implements Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration, which sets out the key pillars of environmental governance.

Professional partners such as Thomson Reuters and other media-related organizations, are key stakeholders in reaching out with assessment finding and creating an impact. Science-society-policy experts, regional offices, high-level group representatives, and other stakeholders engaged in project activities have an important role to play throughout the 2018-2021 period in (political) outreach and resonating key finding and messages emanating from the programme within their constituencies. By strategically embedding stakeholder engagement, communications and impact monitoring upfront in the design of projects, the reach and impact of the Environment under Review programme can be further expanded at global, regional, national and city level.

6. Project Concepts

A1. Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals and other environmental goals

Project Title/Area:	Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals and other environmental goals		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:	Healthy and Productive Ecosystems		
Proposing Team/ Unit/	Science Division/ Sustainable Development Goals Data and Information Unit; UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center; GRID Geneva; All Regional Offices	**Focal Point**	Ludgarde Coppens (Corli Pretorius; Pascal Peduzzi; all Regional Teams)
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [X] **Global/ Normative** [X]	**New stream of work** [ ] **Existing stream of work** [X] Complements current work under 732.1	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	SP-7 EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action		
Expected Accomplishment (secondary)	SP-3 EA (a) The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels		
PoW Indicator(s):	Primary PoW EA indicators SP7 EA(a) i: Increase in the number of tagged and maintained datasets available in the United Nations system data catalogue enabling systematic user access to relevant data on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals SP7 EA(a) iv: Increase in the number of indicators to measure the environmental dimension of sustainable development made available through UNEP Live that are disaggregated by vulnerable groups, especially by gender, geography and age Secondary PoW EA indicators SP3 EA(a) i: Increase in number of countries and transboundary collaboration frameworks that have made progress to monitor and maintain the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems of value and role of ecosystem services SP3 EA(b) ii: Increase in number of countries and transboundary collaboration frameworks that demonstrate enhanced knowledge of value and role of ecosystem services		
Outcome Statement:	Strengthened national, regional and global data and indicator frameworks for monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through satellite imagery and use of quality open access environmental data		
Brief description/ project logic:	The project will focus on strengthening national, regional and global data and indicator frameworks for monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. UN Environment is custodian agency for 26 environment-related indicators and contributing to another 50. This number may increase after the review of the Sustainable Development Goals Global Indicator Framework where		

	additional indicators will be considered. This key deliverable will ensure that UN Environment lives up to its international commitments, reports on the indicators on a yearly basis to the international community, and develops and implements methodologies for those indicators that cannot yet be reported on globally. In addition, the initiative will continue to work with regional commissions and other UN Agencies to support countries upon request in their efforts to develop national capacity in environment statistics and reporting mechanism on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. This also includes supporting data sharing between institutions and enhancing the interoperability of geospatial and statistical information. Together this will contribute to the strengthening of government capacity in regions for integrating the environmental dimension (for example biodiversity and ecosystem planning and management) into national strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, to maximize the potential and avoid fragmentation and duplication in reporting. Synergies will be sought with conventions and other international environment-related data initiatives for tracking progress towards the Goals. Through the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center, which acts as the Secretariat to the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, UN Environment engages with more than 50 global biodiversity indicators. The Partnership is mandated by the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/L.19) to help assess the potential for shared use between the Convention's Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. It also offers capacity building approaches to the design and delivery of biodiversity indicator frameworks which are transferable to the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2018-2021, the focus will be expanded to contribute to the collective effort and to enhance the management and use of geospatial information, and to strengthen national information systems in a way that contributes to multiple international processes. There is an urgent need for a mechanism, such as a global statistical-spatial framework, to facilitate consistent production and integration of geo-statistical information in the follow-up and review of environmental goals. Integrating statistical and geospatial information is critical for (i) local, sub-national, national, regional, and global decision making processes; and (ii) measuring and monitoring the targets and global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project will also aim at automatizing the transformation of Earth Observation data into information to support monitoring of Sustainable Develoment Goals implementation efforts, assessing progress towards achieving the Goals and global environmental monitoring. The Global Monitoring of Land cover Changes tool will be developed by GRID-Geneva GRID-Geneva in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Ramsar Convention and the Group on Earth Observation. The use of the GMLC tool will simplify the production of information required by international organizations and for the relevant Goals to improve reporting and monitoring on status and trends. The project will establish a priority on the gender and environment nexus through gender disaggregation of data. While Goal 5 is a stand-alone goal which promotes gender equality and women's empowerment, approximately one-third of the 230 indicators are gender relevant. In order for UN Environment to incorporate a gender dimension in all facets of its work, the project aims to promote the production of high-quality gender statistics that provide data on the status of women compared to men in relation to the environment. Measuring the nexus between gender and the environment in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals will support environmental assessment and enhance national capacity to produce, analyze, disseminate, communicate and use timely and reliable gender statistics for the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development Goals
Project outputs/ activities:	• Geo-referenced statistical data on the environment • Gender-disaggregated environment statistics • National level data mapping and short reports on national data gaps

	• Identification of opportunities and challenges in developing national level data strategies • Manuals/guidance materials, standards and toolkits, and e-learning on developing national/ local level environment-related data strategies and information systems for Sustainable Development Goals • Global Monitoring of Land cover Changes (GMLC) tool for automated processing of Landsat and Sentinel 2 satellite images for use by people who are not remote-sensing experts so that they can use these images for accurately assessing land cover changes • Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to train people in the use of the GMLC tool with a particular focus on the monitoring of protected areas and Ramsar sites, and the monitoring of progress under the scope of SDG 6 and SDG 15
Project Outcome indicator(s):	• Number of countries with increased availability of geo-referenced or gender dis-aggregated statistical data on the environment • Number of project countries that have adopted, or are developing, sustainable development plans which integrate targets and indicators from others processes (such as NBSAPs) • Number of institutions using the Global Monitoring Land cover Changes tool for their assessments
Expected long term impact	Government agencies, including national statistical offices responsible for sustainable development planning, have enhanced capacity to integrate targets, indicators and activities into reporting and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to the environment. Governments are better able to report on progress and plan delivery towards achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals, as a result of sustainable data strategies and cross-sectoral partnerships. The utility and relevance of environmental data across multiple sectors is understood and the capacity of national institutions for mobilising, analysing and using environmental data is enhanced. Ultimately, the project will result in (i) an increase in number of countries fully reporting on environment-related SDG indicators, and (ii) an increase in policy action taken by countries on the environmental dimension of sustainable development based on the use of environmental data, information and assessments. Easier access to satellite imagery for developing countries and improved monitoring of protected areas will result in earlier detection of human encroachments in protected areas, improved management of protected areas, and greater awareness on the environmental impacts from human activities resulting in policy action.
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	All environment-related Sustainable Development Goals and Targets
Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	UNEA-2 resolution 2/5: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Related MEAs	All Multilateral Environmental Agreements that have agreed goals and targets are relevant, especially in the identification and visualization of synergies to build upon existing efforts and reduce the reporting burden of national and local governments.
Strategic Impact Priorities	The project contributes to all priorities: Cities, Pollution, Oceans, Biodiversity, Green Finance, and the nexus between Peace, Security and the Environment
Geographical focus	Global, regional, national and city-level. Countries will be identified in consultation with regional offices as well as existing and potential projects. Potential criteria for selection are: • Readiness to develop a national Sustainable Development Goal strategy or equivalent • Political commitment to sustainable management of natural resources and building government capacity to respond effectively • Stated need for support in data sharing • Potential to build on existing work in a country to maximize project impact and ensure project investment brings added value (for example building on existing relationships with key agencies in multiple sectors through ongoing or recent projects) • Willingness to facilitate experience exchange and capacity development

Partners	UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center, GRID-Geneva, UN Statistics Division, UN Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, European Commission, European Environment Agency, IUCN, University of Geneva (Envirospace), Era Planet, Group on Earth Observations and its Committee on Earth Observations Satellites, which includes the European Space Agency along with other major Space Agencies, ESRI and other private sector players mainly in the area of Earth observation			
Duration:	**Start:** 01/2018	**End:** 12/2021	**Total months:**	48
Tentative budget and funding sources	USD 4,400,000			

A2. Global and regional integrated environmental assessments

Project Title/Area:	Global and regional integrated environmental assessments		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:			
Proposing Team/ Unit/	Science Division/ Global Assessment Unit	**Focal Point**	Pierre Boileau
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [ ] **Global/ Normative** [X]	**New stream of work** [ ] **Existing stream of work** [X] Building upon 712.1	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	SP7 EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action		
Expected Accomplishment (secondary)			
PoW Indicator(s):	SP7 EA(a) iii: Strengthening of the science-policy interface by countries based on use of data, information and policy analysis in the areas of air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues SP7 EA(s) v: Increased number of people belonging to different groups and stakeholders acknowledging the relevance and usefulness of data and environmental information made available by UN Environment.		
Outcome Statement:	UN, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, targeted political fora and environment-related institutions are increasingly using information from integrated environmental assessments in their policy making processes		
Brief description/ project logic:	The 6th edition of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) was requested by Member States through UNEA Resolution 1/4 in June 2014 and is currently in preparation. This key project, that will be ready for the 2019 UN Environment Assembly, aims to provide policy relevant information to governments and other stakeholders which they can use in the policy-making processes to deliver the environmental dimension of the sustainable development goals. The sixth Global Environment Outlook builds upon the six regional assessments as well as the Sustainable Development Goals indicators and Multilateral Environmental Agreement synergies work (see Project Concept A1), and other relevant assessments, such as those prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the		

	International Resource Panel. The global assessment strives to be indicator-based and is planned according to the revised UN Environment Assembly cycle, seeking synergies with the main timetable of other intergovernmental processes and fora to ensure targeted delivery of the key findings. The global and regional assessment components are also a key driver for the development of Environment Live (see Project Concept A4) by ensuring that data and knowledge from the assessment are made discoverable on this open platform. Moving forward into the 2018 to 2021 period, UN Environment's Global Environment Outlook process aims to become more continuous in nature, in much the same way as the assessment processes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Continuity would be assured by integrating the various UN Environment thematic and rapid response assessment processes in the development of Global Environment Outlooks offering the possibility of linking the global, regional, thematic and rapid response assessments within a more permanent policy process, such as implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This evolution of the Global Environment Outlook process is consistent with UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 that "Emphasizes *that the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, has an important role in the follow-up to and review of progress in implementing the environmental dimension of sustainable development, including the provision of policy-relevant information through assessment processes such as the Global Environment Outlook, as a contribution to the Global Sustainable Development Report and to the annual Sustainable Development Goals progress report, all of which should support the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development*;". This process of linking relevant assessment processes to the Global Environment Outlook, but still managed by the Secretariats and within the Divisions where the work is currently occurring, would add coherence to UN Environment's assessment work, potentially reduce the number of publications and require more collaboration among the various groups within and outside UN Environment who are working on environmental assessments. Moreover, with the publication of the revised integrated environmental assessment guidelines, a more consistent methodological and planning approach could be applied to all UN Environment assessment processes. The Global Environment Outlook process is also responding to the findings of the Global Gender and Environment Outlook by better integrating gender perspectives in the assessment. To this end, guidance on assessment methodologies will be further reviewed and revised in the period 2018-2021.
Project outputs/ activities:	• GEO-6 global assessment report and negotiated Summary for Policy Makers produced, launched and disseminated • Integration of gender issues into the Global Environment Outlook to ensure a better understanding of the issues and opportunities and to foster a demand for data and policy information that is gender disaggregated. • Methodological development, from improving guidance for conducting Integrated Environmental Assessment to developing innovative approaches for compiling scenarios and outlooks. • Further integration of UN Environment thematic and rapid response assessments under the Global Environment Assessment process globally and in the regions, leading to greater coherence and coordination of UN Environment assessment activities. • Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) on integrated environmental assessments. • Terminal evaluation of GEO-6 and design/ planning for GEO-7 and GEO-8 in the context of monitoring and tracking progress towards the achievement of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.
Project Outcome indicator(s):	• Number of UN agencies and bodies of multilateral environmental agreements that cite in their policy statements and documents Global Environment Outlook information made available through UN Environment online platforms • Number of environment-related non-governmental institutions that cite in their documents Global Environment Outlook information made available through UN

	Environment online platforms			
Expected long term impact	A strengthened science-policy-governance interface based on use of data, information and policy analysis in the areas of air quality, climate change, oceans, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues. Greater coherence and consistency of UN Environment assessment activities and products.			
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	The environmental dimension of all SDG Goals and Targets			
Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	UNEA-1 resolution 1/4: Science Policy Interface UNEA-2 resolution 2/5: Delivering on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development			
Related MEAs	All environment-related multilateral environmental agreements			
Strategic Impact Priorities	All priorities are part of integrated environmental assessments: Cities, Pollution, Oceans, Biodiversity, Green Finance, and the nexus between Peace, Security and the Environment			
Geographical focus	Global, Regional			
Partners	GRID centers, European Environment Agency, IGES, IIASA, PBL, IISD, SEI, UNEP-WCMC, several universities and environmental research and policy institutes, and others			
Duration:	**Start:** 01/2018	**End:** 12/2021	**Total months:**	48
Tentative budget and funding sources	US$6,000,000			

A3. Thematic environmental assessments

Project Title/Area:	Thematic environmental assessments		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:	Healthy and Productive Ecosystems; Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality, Disasters and Conflicts		
Proposing Team/ Unit/	UN Environment, Africa Office/ Latin America and the Caribbean Office/ Europe Office/ Science Division	**Focal Point**	Valentin Foltescu (All Regional Teams)
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [X] Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Europe, West Asia **Global/ Normative** [ ]	**New stream of work** [ ] **Existing stream of work** [X] Atlases will build on 721.3; oceans assessment on a component under 712.1	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	SP7 EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses, and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to general evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues, and foster policy action.		
Expected Accomplishment (secondary)	SP2 EA(a): Countries and international partners integrate environmental measures for risk reduction in key policies and frameworks SP3 EA(a): The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels SP3 EA (b): Policymakers in the public and private sectors test the inclusion of the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making SP5 EA(a): Policies and legal, institutional and fiscal strategies and mechanisms for sound		

	chemicals management developed or implemented in countries within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
PoW Indicator(s):	Corresponding to Primary Expected accomplishments "Environment under review" SP7 EA(a)ii: Increase in the number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through shared environmental information systems with country-level data made discoverable through UN Environment SP7 EA(a)iii: Strengthening of the science-policy interface by countries based on the use of data, information and policy analysis in the areas of air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues SP7 EA(a)vi: Increase in the number of relevant global, regional and national forums and institutions using data on environmental trends identified through UN Environment for environmental assessment, early warning on emerging issues and/or facilitation of policy action. Corresponding to Secondary Expected accomplishments in other Subprogrammes SP2 EA(a)ii: Increase in the number of international partners' policies on risk reduction that integrate best practices in sustainable natural resource management advocated by UN Environment SP3 EA(a)i: Increase in the number of countries and transboundary collaboration frameworks that have made progress to monitor and maintain the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems SP3 EA(b)i: Increase in the number of public sector institutions that test the incorporation of the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems in economic decision-making. SP5 EA (a)i: Increase in the number of countries that have used UN Environment analysis or guidance, and where possible are applying a multi-sectoral approach, in developing or implementing legislation, policies or action plans that promote sound chemicals management and implementation of the relevant multilateral environmental agreements and SAICM; SP5 EA(a)ii: Increase in the number of private companies/industries that have developed or implemented a strategy or specific actions on sound chemicals management using UNEP analysis or guidance; SP5 EA(a)iii: Increase in the number of civil society organizations that have undertaken action on improving chemicals management using UN Environment analysis or guidance.
Outcome Statement:	The collective primary objective of the thematic assessments project is to profile environmental themes, identifying the challenges and opportunities for sustainable management and strengthen the science-policy interface to support national and local governments and communities in evidence-based policy making. The assessments are focused around key issues, driven by the needs of policy and decision makers.
Brief description/ project logic:	Not much knowledge exists on some environmental themes driving countries, the UN General Assembly, UN bodies and institutions to frequently approach UN Environment for assistance to map out and assess certain environmental issues to support decision making. This project will provide a framework for delivering such specific demand-driven thematic assessments. The thematic assessment strategy is to cover the following: relevance and scope of the thematic issue (location, extent); current condition (state, impacts); trends including changes in drivers, responses, priority areas and outlook. The thematic assessment will be produced through regional networking, the management and use of quality open access environmental data and shared environmental information system (SEIS) principles and analysis of geospatial information and time series. In general terms, the project will deliver the following: • Strengthened availability and use of data on thematic areas and related management or policy issues, to support planning and decision making at all levels

	• Unbiased and authoritative thematic assessments, capacity development and policy support, and comprehensive multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms • Concise descriptions of key issues and opportunities at national, sub-regional and regional levels, accompanied by visual support from satellite images, maps and photographs The project will be accompanied by a joint communications strategy for thematic assessments projects that can be deployed as and when deliverables are available, but also keep stakeholders informed of ongoing processes and first findings of the thematic assessments.
Project outputs/ activities:	**Atlas on Africa Rangelands and Grasslands and Africa Deserts Atlas** The objective of the Atlas on Africa Rangelands and Grasslands is to illustrate the type and extent of land that has been modified/ disturbed by human influence. It will provide visual information on the challenges and opportunities to sustaining water availability, air quality, and wildlife populations while supporting the demands for agriculture, energy, and minerals production on the region's rangelands and grasslands resources. The Africa Deserts Atlas will provide a visual account and a narrative describing and analyzing Africa's desert issues and deserts' role as a resource in the economy and development. **Environmental assessment of extractive Industries in Latin America and the Caribbean** This assessment will make use of multiple data sources and models to set up baseline indicators to: 1) measure short and long term pressures and related impacts; 2) quantify the effectiveness of national or local policies in regulating the exploitation of land and natural resources for extractives activity; and 3) explore what the future of the extractives industry could be following different policy and development paths in the region. The production of the assessment will enable the establishment of an Observatory of Extractives in Latin America and the Caribbean coordinated by a dedicated Task Force which will serve both as a permanent regional mechanism for the collection, recording and publishing of data on the extractive sector and as science-policy interface to help governments at central and local level to identify effective policy responses that address regional priority concerns. The assessment will focus on countries where the extractive industry is a key area of concern for the environment, such as Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, México, Dominican Republic. **Global Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment and Scientific Expertise** UN Environment has been requested by the UN General Assembly resolution 70/235 to provide technical and scientific support to the World Oceans Assessment currently in its second phase (2017-2020). The General Assembly report A/71/362 identified UN Environment as one of the Agencies to assist in the implementation of the Regular Assessment Process with regard to the following activities: awareness-raising, identification of experts for the Pool of Experts, technical and scientific support for the Bureau and the Group of Experts, hosting workshops and meetings of the writing teams, capacity-building and the scoping process for the assessment. UN Environment is also a co-sponsor of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP). The Science Division serves as the Technical Secretary to the Joint Group and coordinates activities and studies for various programmes as well as participating in meetings of the Executive Committee, Annual and other key GESAMP meetings. Issues currently discussed to be further investigated by the Group of Experts include the impacts of mine tailings in the marine environment; sargassum accumulations in the western and eastern mid-Atlantic; the impact of sand mining on the environment; and emerging pollutants of concern (with a focus on pharmaceuticals). **Assessment of sustainable coastal development in Asia Pacific - Pilot to strengthen the science-policy interface** The objective is to deliver a policy-oriented scientific assessment on sustainable coastal

	development, including a strategy on Sustainable Development Goal implementation and reporting. There will be a specific focus on assessing the plastic waste into the oceans from Asian coasts, so as to develop evidence-based policies and their effective implementation for pollution free coasts and oceans, and support national state of the environment reports on the coastal and marine areas and the Sustainable Development Goal reporting. Inputs will also feed global processes such as the World Ocean Assessment and the Global Environment Outlook. **Environmental consequences of migration and displacement in the Mediterranean** The objective is to undertake a comprehensive mapping of the underwater marine litter deposited in the eastern coasts of the Greek islands of Lesbos, Chios and Leros and costing of removal and remediation options to inform action by the Greek government and other relevant stakeholders. It also aims at raising awareness of international stakeholders and of national and local government authorities in Greece for the emerging marine litter problem and build capacity of local populations to contribute to decentralized solutions through citizen science applications. **Arab State of the Water Report** The objective is to prepare an integrated analysis of water resources in the Arab region that will provide a solid analytical base for the monitoring of the state of water and may assist in assessing implementation of action plans. The project will include provision of updated information on indicators that will allow the Arab countries to assess trends in the water sector and needs to work towards achieving the relevant Regional and Global Development Goals and Targets, especially the Sustainable Development Goals related targets.
Project Outcome indicator(s):	Main indicators are relevant to the active and factual participation of countries in the development of the assessment, the quantity and relevance of data and information provided, and the uptake and use of the assessment in national and regional policy making. Outcome indicators include amongst others: • Number of countries committed to provide full and open access to data and information • Number of countries reporting on the development and/or implementation of mechanisms, policies, guidelines and/or instruments that strengthen the science-policy interface and contribute to sustainable development and well-being • Number of global, regional and national fora and institutions using data on environmental trends identified through UN Environment thematic assessments • Regional Seas Programmes and other regional fora considering/referencing thematic assessments for decision making • Data/information from thematic assessments referenced by regional and national Sustainable Development Goals reporting frameworks
Expected long term impact	This project contributes to the achievement of key impacts in the Environment under Review Theory of Change with open environmental data and quality assessments contributing to the delivering of relevant Sustainable Development Goals and implementation of the outcomes of the 3rd UN Environment Assembly ('Pollution Summit'). The project expects to achieve the following: • Stakeholders are informed on the extent and importance of environmental themes in terms of ecosystem goods and services and are taking action when alerted to the changes taking place. • Policy development and decision-making relevant to the environment is supported at the national, regional and global levels
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	The proposed project has direct impacts on 11 Sustainable Development Goals, namely: • Goal 3 on health (3.9 - health risks from pollution and contamination, and 3.12 - early warning for health risks); • Goal 6 on water (6.3 - water quality, 6.4 - water efficiency, 6.6 by 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands etc.); • Goal 7 on energy (7.3 on energy efficiency);

	• Goal 9 on industry (9.1 - sustainable and resilient infrastructure, and 9.4 – sustainable industry); • Goal 11 on cities (11.4 - protect natural and cultural heritage); • Goal 12 on Sustainable Consumption and Production (12.5 – waste minimization); • Goal 13 on Climate Action (13.2 integrate climate change measures into national planning) • Goal 14 on oceans goal (all targets); • Goal 15 on land (all targets); • Goal 16 on peace (16.6 – transparency, 16.7 – participatory approaches to decision making, and 16.10 – public access to information) and; • Goal 17 on partnerships (17.18 – capacity building for data).			
Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	• UNEA-2 Resolution 2/4: SAMOA Pathway • UNEA-2 Resolution 2/5: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development • UNEA-2 resolution 2/8: Sound management of chemicals and waste • UNEA-2 Resolution 2/10: Oceans and seas • UNEA-2 Resolution 2/11: Marine plastic litter and microplastics • UNEA-2 Resolution 2/12: Sustainable coral reefs management • UNEA-2 Resolution 2/24: Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands			
Related MEAs	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Paris, 1994; Biodiversity, Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Bonn, 1979; Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, 1971; Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Regional Seas Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean			
UN Environment priorities	Cities, Pollution, Oceans, Biodiversity and the nexus between Peace, Security and the Environment			
Geographical focus	Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia Pacific, Europe, West Asia, Global, National and sub-national - driven by the requests and needs of policy and decision making.			
Partners	Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE); International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF); George Mason University; United States Geological Surveys/Earth Resources Observation and Science (USGS/EROS); Environment Pulse Institute (EPI); Southern African Research and Documentation Centre / I Musokowane Environment Resource Centre for South Africa (SARDC/IMERCSA); GRID Arendal; International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Birdlife International; United Nations Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization, the Group on Earth Observations and its space coordination arm, the Committee on Earth Observations Satellites, GRID Geneva, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan, University of the Aegean/Lesbos University Unit, International Organization for Migration (IOM); UNHCR-Greece, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Global Migration Group, and the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP).			
Duration:	**Start:** 01/2018	**End:** 12/2021	**Total months:**	48
Tentative budget and funding sources	USD 3,000,000			

A4. Environment Live - global knowledge platform on the environment

Project Title/Area:	Environment Live - global knowledge platform on the environment		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:			
Proposing Team/ Unit/	Science Division/ COTI Branch All Regional offices	**Focal Point**	Alexandre Caldas
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [ ] **Global/ Normative** [X]	**New stream of work** [ ] **Existing stream of work** [X] Complements the work under UNEP Live Project (711.1)	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	SP7 EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data and participatory processes to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and facilitate policy action		
Expected Accomplishment (secondary)			
PoW Indicator(s):	SP7 EA(a)(ii): Increase in the number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through shared environmental information systems with country-level data made discoverable through UNEP SP7 EA(a)(iii): Strengthening of the science-policy interface by countries based on the use of data, information and policy analysis in the areas of air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues SP7(a)(iv): Increase in the number of indicators to measure the environmental dimension of sustainable development made SP7 EA(a)(vii): Level of accessibility and ease of use of UNEP environmental information through open platforms measured against internationally recognized standards for open access to information through UNEP Live that are disaggregated by vulnerable groups, especially by gender, geography and age		
Outcome Statement:	To strengthen the global, regional and national environmental science-policy interface and the availability of open access to data and information through a global knowledge platform on the environment (Environment Live)		
Brief description/ project logic:	**Component 1: Establishment of Environment Live as the Global Knowledge Platform for the Environment, with scientifically reliable data, information and knowledge for policy action** Environment Live will continue to provide open access to data and information. Currently we make easy access to: - Over 900 comparable indicators that underpin the core sets of indicators for global assessments, multilateral environmental agreements and Sustainable Development Goals - Near-real time data e.g. for air quality, sea level rise etc. - 900 maps and cartographic information on a multiple of environmental, social and economic issues - Multiple databases such as the UN Statistics Division's databases, InforMEA, the Global Green Growth Platform, Resource Efficiency Indicators, UN Environment's project databases etc. - Numerous UNEP technical and scientific publications as well as partner resources' such as		

	National State of Environment Reports and other reports, - Data and visualizations that track progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda **Component 2: Environment Live as the platform for Follow-up and Review on Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development, multilateral environmental agreements and State of Environment Reporting** Environment Live will continue to provide technical support to facilitate national, regional and global data flows into Environment Live so they are available for use in scientific assessments and research as well as the overall long term follow-up and review on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and help build national capacities for maintenance of robust environmental information and reporting systems. This includes: - Establishing links to existing platforms via web services thus enhancing countries' interactions with Environment Live based on mutually agreed terms. - Developing and linking new platforms to enable countries to collect, store, manage and analyze data to undertake scientific assessment and policy-relevant research - Create accessible spatial visualizations that support scientific assessment processes, UN Environment's Programme of Work, Sustainable Development Goal tracking, and outreach of key issues and priorities on oceans, pollution, cities, peace and security, green finance and wildlife at the global, regional and national levels. - Provide capabilities such as retrieving, comparing, charting and dynamically visualizing, indicator-level data in various formats - Avail the Indicator Reporting Information System for use by countries to facilitate State of Environment Reporting, multilateral environmental agreements and Sustainable Development Goals reporting, and for sharing of national data amongst Ministries and/ or institutes – so that countries can transform data into actionable indicators using custom visualizations and build reports in a timely, efficient way. **Component 3. Building communities of practice through Environment Live and strengthening the science-policy interface** UN Environment stakeholders in the scientific community, policy making arenas and citizens can use the online Community of Practice portal integrated into Environment Live to facilitate debate amongst subject matter experts from around the world and share data, knowledge and ideas on specific topics to generate knowledge. Global, regional and national strengthening of the science policy interface through online data and information will be focused on key issues and priority areas of oceans, pollution, cities, peace and security, finances and wild-life at the global, regional and national levels. **Component 4. Outreach and dissemination engaging regions and countries in using data and information supporting science-based policy setting and impact** The project will disseminate and reach out Environment Live through permanent and systematic networks of stakeholders (government policy makers, scientific community, business and citizens) at the global, regional and country levels. UN Environment will use its convening power to bring together users and producers of environmental information and facilitate environmental information networking and exchanges of experiences. Regional environmental information networks will be utilized and strengthened as key platforms for raising awareness and facilitating the use of Environment Live data, information and indicator resources. A series of intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder conferences will be held during 2018 - 2021 which will provide input in the Global Environment Outlook process and beyond. A series of conferences might be initiated during 2020 for the next Global Environment Outlook in the series. This project will use these conferences, building upon the open access data and scientific evidence available on Environment Live and offered by participants, to support assessments by: • Environmental priority setting and identification of relevant data and information • Regional environmental information networking and learning exchanges

	• Review latest evidence (statistics, geospatial information, citizen science) in various environmental domains (notably air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues) • Identification of data and information gaps • Development of tools and methodologies with partners to address such gaps • Outlook development (Draft) regional assessments/ (indicator-based) updates covering state, trends, outlooks, emerging issues and progress towards meeting internationally agreed goals as well as the environmental dimension of sustainable development goals, based on regionally agreed priorities in relevant regional Ministerial fora, could provide critical input to the regional environmental information networking conferences as well as form part of the results. **Component 5. Access to Knowledge Repositories** The project will provide scientific communities in countries, in particular developing countries, access to digital repositories of scientific publications, through collective access and digital subscriptions with main scientific publishers. Providing access to Open Access Resources, such as OARE, is an ongoing process as is the maintenance of the knowledge repository.			
Project outputs/ activities:	• Environment Live as the Global Knowledge Platform for the Environment • Environment Live as the platform for Follow-up and Review on Agenda 2030 and Sustainable development, multilateral environmental agreements, and States of Environment Reporting • Outreaching to Communities of Practice through Environment Live • Support to countries in advancing the production, collection and processing of environmental data through regional environmental information networks. These networks (anchored in Project Concept A6) can also help to define the environmental priorities in each region that form the foundation of the assessments, in particular for detailing the state of the environment and the current policy response			
Project Outcome indicator(s):	• Number of countries and citizens with actual use of Environment Live • Number of countries using Environment Live to follow-up and review on the environmental dimension of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable development, through the Sustainable Development Goals portal and Indicator Reporting and Information System tool (IRIS) integrated into Environment Live • Number of countries using Environment Live to share information on multilateral environmental agreements and to build State of Environment Reports			
Expected long term impact	Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action			
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	All 17 Sustainable Development Goals			
Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	UNEA-1 resolution 1/4 Science Policy Interface UNEA-2 resolution 2/5 Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development			
Related MEAs	All multilateral environmental agreements			
Strategic Impact Priorities	All priorities: Cities, Pollution, Oceans, Biodiversity, Green Finance, and the nexus between Peace, Security and the Environment			
Geographical focus	Global, regional, national			
Partners				
Duration:	**Start:** 01/2018	**End:** 12/2021	**Total months:**	48
Tentative budget and funding sources	USD 4,000,000			

A5. Emerging issues identification, analysis and communications

Project Title/Area:	Foresight and strategy for the environment		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:			
Proposing Team/ Unit/	Science Division/ COTI and SAB Branches All Regional offices	**Focal Point**	Alexandre Caldas, Pinya Sarasas
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [X] **Global/ Normative** [X]	**New stream of work** [X] Foresight **Existing stream of work** [X] Building upon the emerging issues project (721.1)	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	SP-7 EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action		
Expected Accomplishment (secondary)	EA (b): Global, regional and national assessment processes and policy planning are informed by emerging issues		
PoW Indicator(s):	SP7 EA(a)(iii): Strengthening of the science-policy interface by countries based on the use of data, information and policy analysis in the areas of air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues SP7 EA(a)(v): Increased number of people belonging to different major groups and stakeholders acknowledging the relevance and usefulness of data and environmental information made available by UNEP SP7 EA(a)(vi): Increase in the number of relevant global, regional and national forums and institutions using data on environmental trends identified through UNEP for environmental assessment, early warning on emerging issues and/or facilitation of policy action		
Outcome Statement:	The identification and communication of emerging issues to policy makers and the general public is a process at the heart of the science-policy interface. Global, regional and national policy-making is facilitated by environmental information made available through foresight and strategy methods as well as by the systematic review and evidence-based analyses of emerging issues to inform decision.		
Brief description/ project logic:	It is UN Environment's responsibility to create and sustain public concern about the state of the environment and to alert the world on which developmental issues have emerged on the global environmental scene in order to facilitate timely and actionable policy responses to address the issues. Some issues may emerge as a result of new scientific findings and understanding of interactions between environmental, social and economic systems; others may be persistent issues for which new approaches and technologies have emerged to equip decision-makers and managers with more practical solutions and tools. Emerging issues may be local, but with a potential to become an issue of regional or global concern if not addressed early. Some of the frontier issues are trends that containing within them the seeds of existential threats (e.g. artificial intelligence, nuclear warfare, sythentic bioengineering, extreme climate, food and water shortages, massive asteroid strike) UN Environment will need to develop techniques to anticipate movement across catastrophic		

	cliff edges. This project consisted of a number of components to deal with these: **Component 1: Building an environmental foresight and outlooks knowledge platform to support progress on delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** Through building a knowledge platform for environmental foresight and outlooks, this project leverages the institutional capacities of countries and regions to construct environmental foresight, modeling, simulation, horizon-scanning and scenarios-building, and directly contributes to open access to environmental data and information at global, regional, and national levels, allowing UN Environment and partners to satisfy the needs of different user communities. This foresight and outlooks knowledge platform uses and builds upon the data, information and indicators made available by the UN Environment Live platform. **Component 2: Conducting environmental foresight and strategy studies in new UN Environment priority areas** UN Environment conducts foresight and strategy exercises for the environmental priorities of pollution, cities, peace and security, green finance and biodiversity/wildlife at the global, regional and national levels. **Component 3. Building a global network of stakeholders - the environmental foresight and outlook community at global, regional and national levels** Building a global network of stakeholders - the environment foresight and outlook community - enables 1) outreach at global, regional and national levels, including through Regional Environmental Information Networks (REINs), which through the Environmental Ministerial Conferences could lead to policy making and decision at national and regional levels, 2) helps to identify gaps and wider use of (emerging) environmental data, information and knowledge, as well as 3) widen the international knowledge base of environmental assessments, and of countries' capacity building for state of environment reporting and reporting on multilateral environmental agreements and/or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **Component 4. Continuous emerging issues identification, analysis and communications** Building on past and ongoing work, this component aims to improve the regular process for emerging issue identification through expert consultations at appropriate levels, systematic review of scientific evidence, research and peer-reviewed literature databases, science news services for peer-reviewed, policy-relevant environmental science articles, results of the existing horizon scans carried out by other institutions, as well as taking into consideration the findings of the foresight studies referred to above. The project will communicate emerging issues to stakeholders and the general public using targeted products, such as the yearly publication series, *Frontiers*, special reports on selected emerging issues of global significance, briefing notes, infographics and other technical materials. The project will ensure that the analysed emerging issues are considered by the UN Environment Assembly.
Project outputs/ activities:	• Environmental foresight and outlooks knowledge platform • Foresight and strategy studies for UN Environment priorities • Outreaching the environmental foresight and outlook community • Open and continuous process of emerging issue identification • Yearly report series on emerging issues relevant to the environment, entitled *Frontiers* • Special reports on selected topics and policy development
Project Outcome indicator(s):	• Increase in the number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development by the availability of open access to data and information through a global knowledge platform on the environment at the global, regional and national levels • Number of countries and regional fora with actual use of foresight methods for environmental policy

	• Number of foresight processes and outlooks that are informed by data and information on the foresight and outlooks knowledge platform • Number of UN Environment foresight and strategy studies in the priority areas of oceans, pollution, cities, peace and security, green finance and biodiversity/wildlife • Number of countries and stakeholders responding positively to the emerging issues communicated by UN Environment			
Expected long term impact	Timely policy responses and action based on the identification and effective communication of emerging issues of environmental concern to decision makers and the general public			
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	Dependent on which emerging issues identified and analysed			
Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	UNEA-1 Resolution 1/4: Science-policy interface			
Related MEAs	Dependent on which emerging issues identified and analysed			
Strategic Impact Priorities	All priorities: Cities, Pollution, Oceans, Biodiversity, Green Finance, and the nexus between Peace, Security and the Environment			
Geographical focus	Global, regional, national			
Partners	ICSU, SCOPE, Future Earth, EEA, EFSA, EGU, IGES, CSIRO, Tongji University CIESIN, Colombia University, AGU, GRID Centres, universities, research institutes, ESRI			
Duration:	**Start:** 01/2018	**End:** 12/2021	**Total months:**	48
Tentative budget and funding sources	USD 2,800,000			

A6. National and regional environmental networking and reporting

Project Title/Area:	Enhance regional and national capacity for networking and indicator-based state of the environment reporting and communication		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:	Healthy and Productive Ecosystems		
Proposing Team/ Unit/	UN Environment Regional Offices/ Science Division regional teams including Science Policy Interface Officers; Science Division Country Outreach , Technology and Innovation Branch (COTI)	**Focal Point**	Jochem Zoetelief (All Regional Teams)
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [X] **Global/ Normative** [ ]	**New stream of work** [ ] **Existing stream of work** [X] Building on EC-funded SEIS component and regional networking component under 711.1	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	SP7 EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action		

Expected Accomplishment (secondary)	SP-3 EA(a): The health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems are institutionalized in education, monitoring and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels
PoW Indicator(s):	Primary Expected accomplishments "Environment under review" SP7 EA(a)(ii): Increase in the number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through shared environmental information systems with country-level data made discoverable through UNEP SP7 EA(a)(iv): Increase in the number of indicators to measure the environmental dimension of sustainable development made available through UNEP Live that are disaggregated by vulnerable groups, especially by gender and age SP7 EA(a)(vi): Increase in the number of relevant global, regional and national forums and institutions using data on environmental trends identified and/or made available through UNEP for environmental assessment, early warning on emerging issues and/or facilitation of policy action Secondary Expected accomplishments "Healthy and Productive Ecosystems" SP3 EA(a)(i): Increase in the number of countries and transboundary collaboration frameworks that have made progress to monitor and maintain the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems
Outcome Statement:	Strengthened capacity of Ministries and other relevant agencies to support state of environment reporting and other assessment and reporting processes including on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals through regional networking, the management and use of quality open access environmental data, shared environmental information system principles and awareness on the state and trends of the environment in each region.
Brief description/ project logic:	This project will enhance capacities of countries in data management, reporting and use of data for informed policy action including through the sharing of environmental data and information through national and regional open portals. In addition, regional and sub-regional networking and institutional strengthening will be supported to foster exchange of knowledge and lessons learned at regional/sub-regional levels, improve the regional knowledge base of environmental reporting and assessments, and implement shared environmental information system principles of open access to data, namely that data is managed as close as possible to source; data is collected once and shared for many purposes. **Component 1: Strengthening data sharing and reporting** Consultations with governments have shown that there is a need for strengthening the knowledge base of environmental reporting and assessments by linking relevant data and information and making it easily available and accessible in line with the shared environmental information system principles. In particular, environmental data and information need to be effectively collected, managed and shared online to support multiple uses at different governance levels to meet multiple reporting obligations, including reporting on multilateral environmental agreements and on progress towards implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **Component 2: Strengthening the generation and strategic use of environmental data for policy action** In addition to support to national processes aimed at regularly reporting on the state of environment, multilateral environmental agreements obligations and on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, countries need technical support to strengthen their capacity to produce and use environmental data (including statistical, geospatial and remote sensing data) for informed policy making. There is also the need to strengthen countries capacities to use the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting's central framework and Natural Capital accounting for generating policy-relevant information and data.

	Component 3: Strengthening integrated environmental assessments at sub-regional level Many countries are struggling to update their state of environment reports. Therefore, introducing a new approach that is based on a set of indicators will be very helpful. UN Environment therefore will coordinate efforts towards indicator-based reporting methods and tools that can be used by all countries. This will considers both regional indicators identified by the region as well as Sustainable Development Goals indicators. Once the method and the set of indicators are developed according to other successful examples from other countries, pilot countries in will be implementing this new approach. It is foreseen that a number of capacity building activities will be undertaken to support the pilot countries to use –and upscale the use- of this method. **Component 4: Informing the public about environmental state and trends in the regions** Annual (sub-regional, regional and global) UN Environment reports or briefs will be designed as data-rich indicator-based mass communication products avoiding the use of scientific jargon and with a strong emphasis on a visual language that will facilitate the understanding and use of the contents by a wide range of audiences, particularly those who are not environmental experts. The contents will be mostly infographics, with all the hyperlinks to data and information sources, podcasts, interviews, further reading, methodologies, and so on. The reports therefore aim at providing a common language for talking about the environment in the regions; although they are primarily intended for governments, political fora and regional leaders (including from the private sector) as a science-policy tool, the objective with these reports is to reach out as many people as possible, helping to 1) raise collective and individual awareness about the environment in relation to the development pathways and lifestyles in the regions, 2) facilitate public participation in environmental governance, 3) promote environmental knowledge literacy, and 4) use knowledge to motivate and empower people in changes towards more sustainable lifestyles. **Component 5: Regional and sub-regional networking on environmental information, reporting and assessments** In order to continue building the regional knowledge bases of environmental reporting and assessments for evidence-informed environmental policy-making, there is a need to support the exchange of lessons learned as well as the interface between science and policy through and within regional networks of data providers, reporting and assessment practitioners, Ministries of Environment and National Statistics Offices. These regional and sub-regional networks will: 1) Provide feedback on national reporting on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (with a particular emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals indicators that fall under UN Environment's responsibility as custodian agency), 2) Promote the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned on sharing and using data in reporting and assessment processes contributing to the strengthening of the science-policy interface regarding the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (as per UNEA-2 resolution 2/5); and 3) identify the regional priorities for relevant assessment processes, regional ministerial forums and other initiatives.
Project outputs/ activities:	• Institutional and technical support provided to countries for sharing and using data in support of state of environment reporting (including reporting on multilateral environmental agreements and Sustainable Development Goals) and assessment processes, as well as of informed policy action; • Support to improvement of national and regional portals for online sharing of environmental data and State of Environment reports including through the use of data sharing and visualization tools, environmental indicators, geo-referenced mapping tools based on official UN Cartography, charts and infographics based on environmental data, and automatic programming interfaces (APIs) connecting different data sets and platforms such as Environment Live in line with shared environmental information system principles; • Support to interested countries for improved sharing and use of environmental data as

	well as reporting on multilateral environmental agreements obligations and on the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals, including through tools such as the the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) ; • Methods developed and shared for country-level state of the environment reporting based on a set of indicators to track environmental trends, human activities that affect these, and management of the environment; • Guidelines for conducting indicator based state of the environment reporting developed and data-rich indicator-based State of the Environment reports for pilot countries in the regions produced; • Production of annual UN Reports or briefs, presented as a digital and concise documents most of them infographics; • The wealth of data and information produced for the publication of the annual reports/briefs made publicly available on Environment Live to inform civil society, policy makers, media and the general public about the state of the regions; • Information made available at different spatial scales and over different timeframe, including both products tailored for targeted audiences and based on a strong use of graphic elements and multimedia as well as reports/assessments produced for specific stakeholders based on specific disaggregation and analysis of the available data; • Knowledge and lessons learned are exchanged among regional networks of national focal points on sharing and using environmental data (including statistical, geospatial and remote sensing data) in support of reporting, integrated environmental assessment processes, and informed policy action.
Project Outcome indicator(s):	• Number of state of environment reporting, multilateral environmental agreements reporting, SDGs reporting, and assessment processes using improved data sharing capacity at national level ; • Number of countries that have received capacity development under the project, that provide voluntary national reports [on the 2030 Agenda and Goals], that include environmental goals; • Number of countries that use shared environmental information system principles to report on global environmental goals/targets or other indicators relevant to the environment; • Number of countries that use quality open environment data including statistical, geospatial and remote sensing data, for informed policy action; • Number of core indicators identified and number of State of the Environment reports produced as a result of training activities; • UN Environment Reports/Briefs will catalyze a new dynamic around the production, validation, maintenance, integration and use of environmental information across the region, from environmental monitoring systems to open data policies; • UN Environment Reports/Briefs used to help governments in filling existent observation gaps and addressing computational challenges and, in turn, improving significantly the capacity in the regions to track and understand patterns and trends of the environment; • A framework provided to develop capacity enhancement activities related to environmental information, mostly based on South-South cooperation; • Establishment and consolidation of a range of strategic partnerships, expanding both the operational and political relevance and incidence of UN Environment in each region; • UN Environment Reports serve as an effective platform for the scientific community and national focal points to contribute, engage and participate in science-policy dialogues and networks in the regions.
Expected long term impact	Strengthened knowledge base for environmental reporting and assessments at national and regional levels, directly contributing to evidence-informed policy and decision making
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	All Sustainable Development Goals targets related to indicators UNEP is responsible for as custodian agency (26)

Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	UNEA-2 Resolution L6.Rev2: Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development			
Related MEAs	Main multilateral environmental agreements as relevant to each country			
Strategic Impact Priorities	All: environmental reporting and assessments at national level will include data and analysis on pollution, oceans, urbanization, green finance and linkages between environment and security amongst others			
Geographical focus	**For Africa:** 35 countries are members of the regional environmental information network and have designated national focal points as well as committed themselves to keeping their state of environment under review. Of these, 19 countries have legal and institutional frameworks for environmental reporting. This project will focus on these 19 countries. **For the Pan-European region:** including Eastern Europe Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) sub-region and West Balkans sub-region, the following countries are being prioritized taking into account (i) potential synergies with ongoing/soon to be initiated UN Environment projects and activities expected to be active in 2018-2019; (ii) synergies with programmes/initiatives of other UN agencies and regional organizations; and (iii) countries requests/demands: • EECCA sub-region: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan • West Balkans sub-region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo[1], Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia **For West Asia:** in addition to the regional networking involving all interested countries, the following countries are being prioritized taking into account: (i) GCC countries (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait & UAE) have already started the preparation of the State of the Environment report for the GCC and requested support from the UN Environment; (ii) Jordan and Lebanon representing the Mashreq sub-regionand both of them have produced a first SoE report and requested support from the UN Environment to update their State of the Environment reports. **For the Latin America and the Caribbean**: All countries **For Asia and the Pacific:** to engage all the countries in the Regional Environment Information Network, and assist 10 countries on Sustainable Development Goals indicator based state of environment reporting. **North America:** for regional networking activities			
Partners	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), European Environment Agency (EEA), Group on Earth Observations/Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia/CAREC, German Technical Cooperation (GiZ), Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development in Central Asia (ICSD), SIC-ICSD, Zoi Environment Network, Austrian Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Global Footprint Network (GFN), Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), Environment Pulse Institute (EPI), USGS/EROS Data Center, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), ASEAN Biodiversity Centre, China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre, Development Alternative (India), Institute for Global Environment Strategy, etc.			
Duration:	**Start:** 01/2018	**End:** 12/2021	**Total months:**	48
Tentative budget and funding sources	USD 4,000,000			

[1] this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Global Environment Facility Portfolio

G1. GEF cross-cutting capacity development portfolio

Project Title/Area:	Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) portfolio funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:	Environmental Governance		
Proposing Team/ Unit/	Science Division/ Country Outreach Unit	**Focal Point**	Jochem Zoetelief
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [X] **Global/ Normative** [ ]	**New stream of work** [ ] **Existing stream of work** [X]	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action		
Expected Accomplishment (secondary)	EA (b) Institutional capacities and policy and/or legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals44		
PoW Indicator(s):	(ii) Increase in the number of countries reporting on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through shared environmental information systems with country-level data made discoverable through UNEP (iii) Strengthening of the science-policy interface by countries based on the use of data, information and policy analysis in the areas of air quality, water quality, ecosystems, biodiversity, waste and hazardous chemicals, the marine environment and emerging issues Indicator EA(a)ii – EA(b) iii <u>Secondary EA:</u> (i) Increase in the number of countries that have enhanced institutional capacity and legal frameworks to fully implement the multilateral environmental agreements and for the achievement of internationally agreed environmental goals including the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals		
Outcome Statement:	To help countries meet and sustain global environmental outcomes by strengthening key capacities that address challenges and remove barriers common to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that the Global Environment Facility serves and to mainstream the global environment into decision making.		
Brief description/ project logic:	Informed decision and policy making on environmental matters is dependent on sound science and information. However, many countries lack capacity in the areas of streamlined data collection, monitoring and reporting and this negatively affects informed decision and policy making on environmental issues. A particular challenge is posed by fragmentation in the management of and reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) at country level. The cross-cutting capacity development (CCCD) portfolio funded by the Global Environment Facility therefore aims at enabling countries to implement and mainstream MEAs and the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a holistic manner based on sound data and up-to-date information. Specific objectives as per the Global Environment Facility strategy are: • To integrate global environmental needs into management information systems and		

	monitoring • To strengthen consultative and management structures and mechanisms • To integrate MEAs' provisions within national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks • To pilot innovative economic and financial tools for Convention implementation. A major focus of the projects for which UN Environment serves as the Implementing Agency is on capacity building for environmental data and information management and use for various purposes. Tools and systems will be established and harmonized to enhance management of data and information across different ministries. UN Environment's convening power and scientific basis are key comparative advantages in this regard. Amongst others, the projects enable quick access to up-to-date knowledge, expertise and tools such as the Environment Live platform and the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS).
Project outputs/ activities:	• Analysis of current environmental information systems, data flows, environmental statistics and reporting mechanisms related to the Rio Conventions and other MEAs . • Agreement among key line ministries and agencies on the streamlining of data collection and sharing to fill data gaps and reduce unnecessary duplication. • Formulation of nationally appropriate environmental indicators based on MEAs, SDGs and other sources for use in different reporting and assessment processes. • Training on data collection and management methodologies, including use of the Environment Live knowledge platform. • Streamlined indicator-based monitoring and reporting system to MEAs, indicators for the environmental dimension of SDGs and other relevant mechanisms, including by use of the Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS). • Training on national State of the Environment Reporting based on integrated environmental assessment methodologies. • Enhanced consultative and decision-making processes for mainstreaming of obligations under Rio Conventions, other relevant MEAs and related SDGs, including shared environmental information systems, collaborative institutional inter-ministerial mechanisms, collaborative mechanisms with major groups and stakeholders. • Pilot projects to demonstrate the application of an integrated approach to implement global environmental priorities at national and local levels.
Project Outcome indicator(s):	• Number of countries that have a coordination environmental information management system in place. • Number of countries that have streamlined regular reporting to MEAs and relevant SDGs indicators. • Number of countries that have established/strengthened a coordination mechanism for MEAs.
Expected long term impact	Countries are able to make sound evidence-informed decisions on the environmental dimension of sustainable development.
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	• Focus on the 96 SDGs indicators related to the environmental dimension, and particularly those that have synergies with the Rio Conventions.
Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	UNEA-2 Resolution 2/5 : Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Related MEAs	Special focus on the 3 Rio Conventions: • Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) • Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD) • Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
Strategic Impact Priorities	Through its operation in vulnerable states and post-conflict settings such as Afghanistan and Iraq, the portfolio contributes to the Peace, Security and Environment nexus. With the emphasis on shared information systems and consultative coordination mechanisms at country level, the projects build critical core capacities for the sustainable management of

	natural resources, thereby contributing to peace and security in the relevant countries.			
Geographical focus	The main focus will be at national level with a main focus on selected countries in Europe, West Asia, Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean: **Existing portfolio:** • Afghanistan • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Cameroon • Haiti • Pacific Islands (14 countries) • St. Lucia **Tentative planned portfolio based on country requests from GEF Operational Focal Points includes:** • Iraq • Mauritania • Caribbean (Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) • South Sudan • Chad • Democratic Republic of Congo • Burundi • Botswana • Montenegro			
Partners	Ministries, sub-regional organizations (e.g. SPREP and CARICOM), Universities, NGOs, communities, other stakeholders (depending on the country circumstances)			
Duration:	**Start:** 01/2018	**End:** 12/2021	**Total months:**	Ongoing (48)
Tentative budget and funding sources	Existing portfolio value: $25 million (GEF and co-financing). GEF only = $10 million Additional funding target: $6 million from the GEF			

G2. GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network

Project Title/Area:	Global Environment Facility – International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW:LEARN)		
Subprogramme:	Environment under Review		
Other Subprogramme/s:			
Proposing Team/ Unit/	Ecosystem Division/ GRID-Arendal	**Focal Point**	Tiina Kurvits
Type of project:	**Regional / country-level** [ ] **Global/ Normative** [X]	**New stream of work** [ ] **Existing stream of work** [X] Phase 4	
Expected Accomplishment (primary)	EA(a): Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action		
Expected Accomplishment (secondary)			

PoW Indicator(s):	SP7 EA(a)(vii): Level of accessibility and ease of use of UNEP environmental information through open platforms measured against internationally recognized standards for open access to information through UNEP Live that are disaggregated by vulnerable groups, especially by gender, geography and age
Outcome Statement:	To strengthen knowledge management capacity and promote scaled-up learning of disseminated experiences, tools and methodologies for transboundary waters management—across and beyond the GEF IW portfolio, together with a global network of partners—in order to improve the effectiveness of GEF IW and partner projects to deliver tangible results and scaled-up investments.
Brief description/ project logic:	GEF IW:LEARN aims are increased experience sharing and replication of successes throughout and beyond the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced stakeholder buy-in to GEF IW project interventions The project aims to move IW:LEARN from a demonstration phase where successful knowledge management services to GEF IW projects were piloted, tested and replicated, towards a scaled-up project which becomes a hub for global learning on transboundary waters, working both inside and outside the GEF-financed portfolio. This enhanced role as a global knowledge hub will support the scale-up of GEF IW investments globally, as the project will harness experience from more than 22 years of GEF portfolio and partner activities to improve the current and future portfolios and impacts of investments. GEF IW:LEARN will also help GEF IW projects in improving their project outcome sustainability by linking them up to global processes and frameworks, as well as partners at the regional and basin-levels. The following outcomes are expected from the work elements led to UN Environment: • Increased experience sharing and replication of successes throughout and beyond the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced stakeholder buy-in to GEF IW project interventions • Enhanced portfolio and partner capacity at the regional and global levels, and portfolio-wide dialogue opportunities for increased transboundary cooperation • Increased global awareness of GEF results and additional partner collaboration with GEF projects • External partnerships mobilized and working together for improved learning and knowledge management, through an enhanced global freshwater Community of Practice—to impact results and advance conjunctive management of water resources • Increased capacity of beneficiary governments, intergovernmental bodies and GEF projects to implement agreed actions identified in existing Strategic Action Programs, with an eye to long-term sustainability
Project outputs/ activities:	The outcomes listed above will be delivered through four inter-linked, and mutually supportive, components: • **Component 1:** Support the Harvesting, Standardization, Dissemination and Replication of Portfolio and Partner Results, Data and Experience • **Component 2:** Share Knowledge and Results Across Projects and Partners (Through Dialogue Processes and Face-to-Face Capacity Building) to Advance Transboundary Water Management • **Component 3:** Expand Global Freshwater Communities of Practice to Advance Conjunctive Management of Surface Freshwater and Groundwaters and Source-to-Sea Linkages withMarine waters and Partner with New Enterprises on Initiatives to Better Manage International Waters. • **Component 4:** Launch Programmatic Tools to Improve Portfolio Performance and Sustain Project Interventions. The expected output is that the IW:LEARN website is incorporating partners' online knowledge platforms, serving global network learning partnership and supporting GEF IW results-based management and GEF-wide knowledge management activities
Project Outcome indicator(s):	1) Strengthened KM capacity across IW portfolio and beyond 2) Scaled-up learning /dissemination of experiences, tools and methodologies

	3) Improved effectiveness of IW projects to deliver results			
Expected long term impact	Improve the effectiveness of GEF International Waters and partner projects to deliver tangible results and scaled-up investments.			
Related SDG(s) and SDG targets:	Goals 6, 14 and 15			
Related UNEA 1 & 2 resolution(s):	UNEA-2 resolution 2/4: Oceans and seas			
Related MEAs	Various transboundary waters agreements			
Strategic Impact Priorities	Cities, Pollution, Oceans			
Geographical focus	Global			
Partners	UNESCO-IOC, Conservation International, The Global Water Partnership, The International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, The Nature Conservancy, The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, The International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO, The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, The World Wildlife Fund			
Duration:	**Start:** 1/2016	**End:** 12/2019	**Total months:**	48
Tentative budget and funding sources	GEF funding UN Environment component: $1,000,000 (GEF + co-financing: $ 4,086,526) (Full project - including UNDP component: $17,109,816, including $4,987,500 GEF funding)			